

Highways and Transportation

H.B. 77

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Willis

Effective date: April 9, 2025

Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)

Private use prohibitions

- Prohibits a person from operating a UAV as follows:
 - In a manner that knowingly endangers any person or property, or purposely disregards others' rights or safety;
 - If federal law or regulations prohibit its operation, unless the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authorized the person to use the UAV;
 - In a manner that disrupts, interrupts, or impairs the operations or activities of law enforcement, fire departments, or emergency medical services; and
 - To photograph, record, or loiter over or near a critical facility with purpose to further another criminal offense that involves physical harm to another person or with purpose to destroy or tamper with the critical facility.

Local government use and regulation

- Subject to other federal and state laws regarding UAVs, authorizes a municipal corporation, township, park district, or county to adopt ordinances, resolutions, or regulations regarding both:
 - The use and operation of UAVs owned and operated by the local government; and
 - The use and operation of UAVs operated exclusively as a hobby or for recreational purposes in and above a park or other public property owned by the local government.

Office of Aviation responsibilities

- Requires the Office of Aviation to provide information and resources on its website regarding the use of UAVs and regarding what constitutes a critical facility.

Abandoned and derelict aircraft

- Authorizes a person to recoup unpaid storage costs from an aircraft owner by perfecting a lien on the aircraft.
- Establishes notification procedures that apply before the director of a public-use airport may perfect a lien on an abandoned aircraft for storage costs and for labor on or furnishing materials for the abandoned aircraft.

- Establishes a process to dispose of a derelict aircraft located on a public-use airport's property through either public auction or through an aircraft salvage or scrap metal dealer.
- Specifies that the derelict aircraft owner remains liable for any remaining costs, fees, and charges if the price of the aircraft does not cover the amount owed to the airport.
- Establishes a procedure for any excess proceeds from the disposal of a derelict aircraft to be distributed to other lienholders, the owner of the aircraft, or the Unclaimed Funds Trust Fund, as circumstances warrant.

H.B. 81

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Robb Blasdel and Jones

Effective date: March 20, 2025

- Designates 57 memorial highways, bridges, and similar locations.

H.B. 107

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Patton

Effective date: March 14, 2025

- Designates the "Cleveland Firefighter Johnny Tetrick Memorial Highway" along a portion of I-90 in Cleveland and authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highway.

H.B. 202

Primary Sponsor: Rep. J. Thomas

Effective date: October 24, 2024

- Designates the eastbound and westbound lanes of U.S. Route 62 between Harmont Avenue N.E. and Rebar Avenue N.E. in the municipal corporation of Canton, Stark County, as the "Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway."

H.B. 251

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Pavliga

Effective date: October 24, 2024

- Designates the northbound and southbound lanes of State Route 88 between Loomis Parkway and S.R. 14, in Portage County, as the "Patrolman James R. Wert Memorial Highway."
- Updates the name of one of the organizations receiving contributions from the "ALS Awareness" license plate from "ALS Association Northern Ohio Chapter" to "ALS Association."

H.B. 253

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Upchurch and Holmes

Effective date: October 21, 2024

- Designates as the “Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor” a passage along U.S. Routes 42, 68, and 62 from Wilberforce, Xenia Township, in Greene County, through Clinton and Brown counties to the Simon Kenton Bridge over the Ohio River.

H.B. 269

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Holmes

Effective date: August 9, 2024

- Designates the “Sgt. Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway” along a portion of State Route 60 in Muskingum County.
- Updates the name of one of the organizations receiving contributions from the “ALS Awareness” license plate to “ALS United Ohio, Incorporated.”

H.B. 403

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cutrona

Effective date: April 9, 2025

Civil actions related to towing

- Establishes a process for a commercial motor vehicle owner to file a civil action to dispute a towing service or storage facility’s charges related to that owner’s commercial motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property after a motor vehicle accident.
- Also authorizes a towing service or storage facility to file a civil action against a motor vehicle owner if all of the following apply:
 - The commercial motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property was removed, towed, or stored after a motor vehicle accident;
 - The owner has not paid the bill or filed a civil action to dispute the charges within 45 days of the owner receiving the bill; and
 - The towing service or storage facility is not attempting to take title to the motor vehicle until after any final judgments are entered for the current civil action.
- Requires a motor vehicle owner to pay the undisputed amount and to post a bond for the disputed amount of the towing service or storage facility’s charges.
- Requires the towing service or storage facility to release the commercial motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property within two business days after receipt of the undisputed amount.

- Requires the court to determine the reasonableness of the amount charged by the towing service or storage facility if that amount is in dispute.

Window tinting

- Expands a law enforcement exemption to certain window tinting regulations and prohibitions.

Transportation network company background checks

- Requires a transportation network company to conduct annual background checks on its authorized drivers and to terminate the authorization for a driver to work for the company if the background check reveals that the driver has committed a disqualifying offense.

Emission control tampering

- Allows a motor vehicle dealer to sell a vehicle with an emission system that has been tampered with to another motor vehicle dealer through a motor vehicle auction under certain circumstances.

S.B. 163

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Kunze

Effective date: April 9, 2025

- Creates 25 new specialty license plates.
- Modifies the law pertaining to three existing specialty plates: the American Legion, Ohio Carpenters, and Ohio Natural Energy Foundation license plates.