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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 276  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Reps. M. Miller and Ray

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### SUMMARY

- Repeals the requirement that the Department of Transportation construct certain interstate interchanges.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Repeal of required interchanges

The bill repeals a provision, enacted in H.B. 23 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (the transportation budget), that requires the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to construct certain interstate interchanges. The provision specifies that ODOT must ensure that limited access exit and entrance ramps to interstate highways exist at least every 4.5 miles in adjacent municipal corporations, provided that:

- Each municipal corporation has a population above 35,000 (based on the most recent federal decennial census);
- The municipal corporations are located in different counties; and
- At least one of the municipal corporations is located in a county with a population above one million (based on the most recent federal decennial census).<sup>1</sup>

The current provision does not require ODOT to seek prior approval for the construction from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal law currently prohibits states from adding “any points of access to, or exit from” projects on the Interstate Systems without approval by the U.S. DOT Secretary.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5501.60, repealed by the bill.

<sup>2</sup> 23 United States Code 111.

Additionally, the FHWA has released policy guidelines specifying the forms of operational safety analyses that a state must conduct and submit in order to receive approval for new or revised access points to the Interstate.<sup>3</sup> The bill's repeal of the required construction of the interchanges removes any potential conflict with the federal requirements.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-18-23

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<sup>3</sup> See "[Policy on Access to the Interstate System](https://www.fhwa.gov/policy/interstate-access)" available on the FHWA's website at: [highways.dot.gov](https://www.fhwa.gov).