

**As Re-Referred by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**Sub. H. B. No. 279**

**Representatives Willis, Brown**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Stewart, Thomas, C., Manning, McClain,  
Dobos**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 1  
4511.751, and 4511.76 and to enact sections 2  
5.501, 3327.18, and 3327.19 of the Revised Code 3  
to address school bus safety, to designate this 4  
act as the School Bus Safety Act, and to make an 5  
appropriation. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 7  
4511.751, and 4511.76 be amended and sections 5.501, 3327.18, 8  
and 3327.19 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

**Sec. 5.501.** The month of August is designated as "School 10  
Bus Safety Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of the 11  
need to properly stop when a stopped school bus is loading and 12  
unloading passengers. 13

**Sec. 3327.18.** (A) The school bus safety fund is created in 14  
the state treasury. The fund shall consist of money appropriated 15  
to it by the general assembly and the criminal fines collected 16  
for violations of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised 17

Code. 18

(B) The fund shall be administered by the director of 19  
education and workforce. Money in the fund shall be used to make 20  
grants to school districts for purposes of improving the safety 21  
features on school buses in accordance with section 3327.19 of 22  
the Revised Code. Money in the fund also may be used to support 23  
the department of education and workforce and the department of 24  
public safety in educating the public regarding the laws 25  
surrounding school bus safety. 26

(C) All investment earnings of the fund shall be credited 27  
to the fund. 28

**Sec. 3327.19.** (A) As used in this section: 29

(1) "Eligible applicant" means a board of education of a 30  
city school district, a local school district, an exempted 31  
village school district, a cooperative education school 32  
district, or a joint vocational school district, or a governing 33  
board of an educational service center. 34

(2) "School bus safety feature" means any of the 35  
following: 36

(a) External school bus cameras; 37

(b) Crossing arms; 38

(c) Lane departure warning systems; 39

(d) Electronic stability control; 40

(e) Lighted crossover mirrors; 41

(f) Colorado rack test-approved bus frames; 42

(g) Fully illuminated stop arms located at the front and 43  
rear of a school bus; 44

<u>(h) Fully illuminated "school bus" signs;</u>	45
<u>(i) Collision avoidance systems;</u>	46
<u>(j) All light-emitting diode lights;</u>	47
<u>(k) Ground wash lights;</u>	48
<u>(l) Reflective chevron;</u>	49
<u>(m) Occupant restraining devices that conform to the school bus seat belt requirements of 49 C.F.R. 571;</u>	50 51
<u>(n) Additional safety features that become available through advancements in technology and that are approved by the department of public safety and the department of education and workforce.</u>	52 53 54 55
<u>(B) The department of education and workforce shall administer a school bus safety grant program. Under the grant program, the department shall award grants to eligible applicants who apply to the department for funding to do any of the following:</u>	56 57 58 59 60
<u>(1) Purchase and install school bus safety features on an eligible applicant's school buses that do not currently have those features installed;</u>	61 62 63
<u>(2) Purchase and install school bus safety features to replace old, broken, or outdated safety features on an eligible applicant's current school buses;</u>	64 65 66
<u>(3) Purchase school bus safety features as additional features to be included on new school buses being purchased by the eligible applicant.</u>	67 68 69
<u>(C) The department shall use the school bus safety fund created under section 3327.18 of the Revised Code to provide</u>	70 71

grants to eligible applicants in accordance with this section. 72

(D) The director of education and workforce shall 73  
establish any procedures and requirements necessary to 74  
administer this section, including procedures and requirements 75  
governing the form of grant applications and grant award 76  
processes and amounts. 77

(E) An eligible applicant that receives a grant under this 78  
section shall do both of the following: 79

(1) Use the funds only for the purchase and installation 80  
of school bus safety features; 81

(2) Spend any grant funds awarded not later than two years 82  
after the date the funds are distributed to the eligible 83  
applicant. 84

**Sec. 4503.03.** (A) (1) (a) Except as provided in division (B) 85  
of this section, the registrar of motor vehicles may designate 86  
one or more of the following persons to act as a deputy 87  
registrar in each county: 88

(i) The county auditor in any county; 89

(ii) The clerk of a court of common pleas in any county; 90

(iii) An individual; 91

(iv) A nonprofit corporation as defined in division (C) of 92  
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 93

All fees collected and retained by a clerk for conducting 94  
deputy registrar services shall be paid into the county treasury 95  
to the credit of the certificate of title administration fund 96  
created under section 325.33 of the Revised Code. 97

(b) As part of the selection process in awarding a deputy 98

registrar contract, the registrar shall consider the customer 99  
service performance record of any person previously awarded a 100  
deputy registrar contract pursuant to division (A) (1) of this 101  
section. 102

(2) Deputy registrars shall accept applications for the 103  
annual license tax for any vehicle not taxed under section 104  
4503.63 of the Revised Code and shall assign distinctive numbers 105  
in the same manner as the registrar. Such deputies shall be 106  
located in such locations as the registrar sees fit. Except as 107  
provided in division (A) (3) of this section, there shall be at 108  
least one deputy registrar in each county. 109

(3) The registrar need not appoint a deputy registrar in a 110  
county to which all of the following apply: 111

(a) No individual, nonprofit corporation, or, where 112  
applicable, clerk of court of common pleas participates in the 113  
competitive selection process to be designated as a deputy 114  
registrar; 115

(b) Neither the county auditor nor the clerk of court of 116  
common pleas agrees to be designated as a deputy registrar; 117

(c) No individual or nonprofit corporation agrees to be 118  
designated as a deputy registrar; 119

(d) No deputy registrar operating an existing deputy 120  
registrar agency in another county agrees to be designated as 121  
the deputy registrar for that county. 122

(4) The registrar may reestablish a deputy registrar in 123  
any county without a deputy registrar if any of the following 124  
apply: 125

(a) The county auditor requests to be designated as a 126

deputy registrar;	127
(b) The clerk of court of common pleas requests to be	128
designated as a deputy registrar;	129
(c) A deputy registrar operating an existing deputy	130
registrar agency in another county requests to be designated as	131
a deputy registrar for that county;	132
(d) A qualified individual or nonprofit corporation	133
requests to be designated as a deputy registrar. In the event	134
that two or more qualified individuals, nonprofit corporations,	135
or a combination thereof, request to be designated as a deputy	136
registrar, the registrar may make the designation through the	137
competitive selection process.	138
Deputy registrar contracts are subject to the provisions	139
of division (B) of section 125.081 of the Revised Code.	140
(B) (1) The registrar shall not designate any person to act	141
as a deputy registrar under division (A) (1) of this section if	142
the person or, where applicable, the person's spouse or a member	143
of the person's immediate family has made, within the current	144
calendar year or any one of the previous three calendar years,	145
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one hundred	146
dollars to any person or entity included in division (A) (2) of	147
section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. As used in this division,	148
"immediate family" has the same meaning as in division (D) of	149
section 102.01 of the Revised Code, and "entity" includes any	150
political party and any "continuing association" as defined in	151
division (C) (4) of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or	152
"political action committee" as defined in division (C) (8) of	153
that section that is primarily associated with that political	154
party. For purposes of this division, contributions to any	155

continuing association or any political action committee that is 156  
primarily associated with a political party shall be aggregated 157  
with contributions to that political party. 158

The contribution limitations contained in this division do 159  
not apply to any county auditor or clerk of a court of common 160  
pleas. A county auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas is 161  
not required to file the disclosure statement or pay the filing 162  
fee required under section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. The 163  
limitations of this division also do not apply to a deputy 164  
registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar 165  
contract, is elected to an office of a political subdivision. 166

(2) The registrar shall not designate either of the 167  
following to act as a deputy registrar: 168

(a) Any elected public official other than a county 169  
auditor or, as authorized by division (A)(1) of this section, a 170  
clerk of a court of common pleas, acting in an official 171  
capacity, except that, the registrar shall continue and may 172  
renew a contract with any deputy registrar who, subsequent to 173  
being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to an 174  
office of a political subdivision; 175

(b) Any person holding a current, valid contract to 176  
conduct motor vehicle inspections under section 3704.14 of the 177  
Revised Code. 178

(3) As used in division (B) of this section, "political 179  
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the 180  
Revised Code. 181

(C)(1) Except as provided in division (C)(2) of this 182  
section, deputy registrars are independent contractors and 183  
neither they nor their employees are employees of this state, 184

except that nothing in this section shall affect the status of 185  
county auditors or clerks of courts of common pleas as public 186  
officials, nor the status of their employees as employees of any 187  
of the counties of this state, which are political subdivisions 188  
of this state. Each deputy registrar shall be responsible for 189  
the payment of all unemployment compensation premiums, all 190  
workers' compensation premiums, social security contributions, 191  
and any and all taxes for which the deputy registrar is legally 192  
responsible. Each deputy registrar shall comply with all 193  
applicable federal, state, and local laws requiring the 194  
withholding of income taxes or other taxes from the compensation 195  
of the deputy registrar's employees. Each deputy registrar shall 196  
maintain during the entire term of the deputy registrar's 197  
contract a policy of business liability insurance satisfactory 198  
to the registrar and shall hold the department of public safety, 199  
the director of public safety, the bureau of motor vehicles, and 200  
the registrar harmless upon any and all claims for damages 201  
arising out of the operation of the deputy registrar agency. 202

(2) For purposes of Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code, 203  
determinations concerning the employment of deputy registrars 204  
and their employees shall be made under Chapter 4141. of the 205  
Revised Code. 206

(D) (1) With the approval of the director, the registrar 207  
shall adopt rules governing deputy registrars. The rules shall 208  
do all of the following: 209

(a) Establish requirements governing the terms of the 210  
contract between the registrar and each deputy registrar and the 211  
services to be performed; 212

(b) Establish requirements governing the amount of bond to 213  
be given as provided in this section; 214



(c) Establish requirements governing the size and location of the deputy's office;	215 216
(d) Establish requirements governing the leasing of equipment necessary to conduct the vision screenings required under section 4507.12 of the Revised Code and training in the use of the equipment;	217 218 219 220
(e) Encourage every deputy registrar to inform the public of the location of the deputy registrar's office and hours of operation by means of public service announcements;	221 222 223
(f) Allow any deputy registrar to advertise in regard to the operation of the deputy registrar's office, including allowing nonprofit corporations operating as a deputy registrar to advertise that a specified amount of proceeds collected by the nonprofit corporation are directed to a specified charitable organization or philanthropic cause;	224 225 226 227 228 229
(g) Specify the hours the deputy's office is to be open to the public and require as a minimum that one deputy's office in each county be open to the public for at least four hours each weekend, provided that if only one deputy's office is located within the boundary of the county seat, that office is the office that shall be open for the four-hour period each weekend;	230 231 232 233 234 235
(h) Specify that every deputy registrar, upon request, provide any person with information about the location and office hours of all deputy registrars in the county;	236 237 238
(i) Allow a deputy registrar contract to be awarded to a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of this state;	239 240
(j) Establish procedures for a deputy registrar to request the authority to collect reinstatement fees under sections 4507.1612, 4507.45, 4509.101, 4509.81, 4510.10, 4510.22,	241 242 243

4510.72, and 4511.191 of the Revised Code and to transmit the 244  
reinstatement fees and two dollars of the service fee collected 245  
under those sections. The registrar shall ensure that at least 246  
one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment 247  
and is able to accept reinstatement fees. The registrar shall 248  
deposit the service fees received from a deputy registrar under 249  
those sections into the public safety - highway purposes fund 250  
created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code and shall use the 251  
money for deputy registrar equipment necessary in connection 252  
with accepting reinstatement fees. 253

(k) Establish standards for a deputy registrar, when the 254  
deputy registrar is not a county auditor or a clerk of a court 255  
of common pleas, to sell advertising rights to third party 256  
businesses to be placed in the deputy registrar's office; 257

(l) Allow any deputy registrar that is not a county 258  
auditor or a clerk of a court of common pleas to operate a 259  
vending machine; 260

(m) Specify that each deputy registrar and driver 261  
examination location shall display at all times, in a prominent 262  
place on the premises, a graphic that instructs drivers to stop 263  
and yield to a stopped school bus when it is either loading or 264  
unloading passengers. 265

The registrar shall create and issue the graphic for 266  
distribution to and display at each deputy registrar and driver 267  
examination location. The registrar also shall display the 268  
graphic on the bureau of motor vehicle's web site. 269

(n) Establish such other requirements as the registrar and 270  
director consider necessary to provide a high level of service. 271

(2) The rules may allow both of the following: 272

(a) The registrar to award a contract to a deputy registrar to operate more than one deputy registrar's office if determined by the registrar to be practical;	273 274 275
(b) A nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of providing automobile-related services to its members or the public and that provides such services from more than one location in this state to operate a deputy registrar office at any location.	276 277 278 279 280
(3) As a daily adjustment, the bureau of motor vehicles shall credit to a deputy registrar the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each damaged license plate or validation sticker the deputy registrar replaces as a service to a member of the public.	281 282 283 284 285
(4) (a) With the prior approval of the registrar, each deputy registrar may conduct at the location of the deputy registrar's office any business that is consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar and that is not specifically mandated or authorized by this or another chapter of the Revised Code or by implementing rules of the registrar.	286 287 288 289 290 291
(b) In accordance with guidelines the director of public safety shall establish, a deputy registrar may operate or contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy registrar location if products of the vending machine are consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar.	292 293 294 295 296
(c) A deputy registrar may enter into an agreement with the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission pursuant to division (A) (11) of section 5537.04 of the Revised Code for the purpose of allowing the general public to acquire from the deputy registrar the electronic toll collection devices that are	297 298 299 300 301

used under the multi-jurisdiction electronic toll collection 302  
agreement between the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure 303  
commission and any other entities or agencies that participate 304  
in such an agreement. The approval of the registrar is not 305  
necessary if a deputy registrar engages in this activity. 306

(5) As used in this section and in section 4507.01 of the 307  
Revised Code, "nonprofit corporation" has the same meaning as in 308  
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 309

(E) (1) Unless otherwise terminated and except for interim 310  
contracts lasting not longer than one year, contracts with 311  
deputy registrars shall be entered into through a competitive 312  
selection process and shall be limited in duration as follows: 313

(a) For contracts entered into between July 1, 1996 and 314  
June 29, 2014, for a period of not less than two years, but not 315  
more than three years; 316

(b) For contracts entered into on or after June 29, 2014, 317  
for a period of five years, unless the registrar determines that 318  
a shorter contract term is appropriate for a particular deputy 319  
registrar. 320

(2) All contracts with deputy registrars shall expire on 321  
the last Saturday of June in the year of their expiration. Prior 322  
to the expiration of any deputy registrar contract, the 323  
registrar, with the approval of the director, may award a one- 324  
year contract extension to any deputy registrar who has provided 325  
exemplary service based upon objective performance evaluations. 326

(3) (a) The auditor of state may examine the accounts, 327  
reports, systems, and other data of each deputy registrar at 328  
least every two years. The registrar, with the approval of the 329  
director, shall immediately remove a deputy who violates any 330

provision of the Revised Code related to the duties as a deputy, 331  
any rule adopted by the registrar, or a term of the deputy's 332  
contract with the registrar. The registrar also may remove a 333  
deputy who, in the opinion of the registrar, has engaged in any 334  
conduct that is either unbecoming to one representing this state 335  
or is inconsistent with the efficient operation of the deputy's 336  
office. 337

(b) If the registrar, with the approval of the director, 338  
determines that there is good cause to believe that a deputy 339  
registrar or a person proposing for a deputy registrar contract 340  
has engaged in any conduct that would require the denial or 341  
termination of the deputy registrar contract, the registrar may 342  
require the production of books, records, and papers as the 343  
registrar determines are necessary, and may take the depositions 344  
of witnesses residing within or outside the state in the same 345  
manner as is prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in 346  
civil actions in the court of common pleas, and for that purpose 347  
the registrar may issue a subpoena for any witness or a subpoena 348  
duces tecum to compel the production of any books, records, or 349  
papers, directed to the sheriff of the county where the witness 350  
resides or is found. Such a subpoena shall be served and 351  
returned in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case is 352  
served and returned. The fees of the sheriff shall be the same 353  
as that allowed in the court of common pleas in criminal cases. 354  
Witnesses shall be paid the fees and mileage provided for under 355  
section 119.094 of the Revised Code. The fees and mileage shall 356  
be paid from the fund in the state treasury for the use of the 357  
agency in the same manner as other expenses of the agency are 358  
paid. 359

In any case of disobedience or neglect of any subpoena 360  
served on any person or the refusal of any witness to testify to 361

any matter regarding which the witness lawfully may be 362  
interrogated, the court of common pleas of any county where the 363  
disobedience, neglect, or refusal occurs or any judge of that 364  
court, on application by the registrar, shall compel obedience 365  
by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in the case of 366  
disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from that 367  
court, or a refusal to testify in that court. 368

(4) Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be 369  
construed to require a hearing of any nature prior to the 370  
termination of any deputy registrar contract by the registrar, 371  
with the approval of the director, for cause. 372

(F) Except as provided in section 2743.03 of the Revised 373  
Code, no court, other than the court of common pleas of Franklin 374  
county, has jurisdiction of any action against the department of 375  
public safety, the director, the bureau, or the registrar to 376  
restrain the exercise of any power or authority, or to entertain 377  
any action for declaratory judgment, in the selection and 378  
appointment of, or contracting with, deputy registrars. Neither 379  
the department, the director, the bureau, nor the registrar is 380  
liable in any action at law for damages sustained by any person 381  
because of any acts of the department, the director, the bureau, 382  
or the registrar, or of any employee of the department or 383  
bureau, in the performance of official duties in the selection 384  
and appointment of, and contracting with, deputy registrars. 385

(G) The registrar shall assign to each deputy registrar a 386  
series of numbers sufficient to supply the demand at all times 387  
in the area the deputy registrar serves, and the registrar shall 388  
keep a record in the registrar's office of the numbers within 389  
the series assigned. Except as otherwise provided in section 390  
3.061 of the Revised Code, each deputy shall be required to give 391

bond in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars, or 392  
in such higher amount as the registrar determines necessary, 393  
based on a uniform schedule of bond amounts established by the 394  
registrar and determined by the volume of registrations handled 395  
by the deputy. The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the 396  
registrar. The bonds required of deputy registrars, in the 397  
discretion of the registrar, may be individual or schedule bonds 398  
or may be included in any blanket bond coverage carried by the 399  
department. 400

(H) Each deputy registrar shall keep a file of each 401  
application received by the deputy and shall register that motor 402  
vehicle with the name and address of its owner. 403

(I) Upon request, a deputy registrar shall make the 404  
physical inspection of a motor vehicle and issue the physical 405  
inspection certificate required in section 4505.061 of the 406  
Revised Code. 407

(J) Each deputy registrar shall file a report semiannually 408  
with the registrar of motor vehicles listing the number of 409  
applicants for licenses the deputy has served, the number of 410  
voter registration applications the deputy has completed and 411  
transmitted to the board of elections, and the number of voter 412  
registration applications declined. 413

**Sec. 4510.036.** (A) The bureau of motor vehicles shall 414  
record within ten days of conviction or bail forfeiture and 415  
shall keep at its main office, all abstracts received under this 416  
section or section 4510.03, 4510.031, 4510.032, or 4510.034 of 417  
the Revised Code and shall maintain records of convictions and 418  
bond forfeitures for any violation of a state law or a municipal 419  
ordinance regulating the operation of vehicles, streetcars, and 420  
trackless trolleys on highways and streets, except a violation 421

related to parking a motor vehicle. 422

(B) Every court of record or mayor's court before which a 423  
person is charged with a violation for which points are 424  
chargeable by this section shall assess and transcribe to the 425  
abstract of conviction that is furnished by the bureau to the 426  
court the number of points chargeable by this section in the 427  
correct space assigned on the reporting form. A United States 428  
district court that has jurisdiction within this state and 429  
before which a person is charged with a violation for which 430  
points are chargeable by this section may assess and transcribe 431  
to the abstract of conviction report that is furnished by the 432  
bureau the number of points chargeable by this section in the 433  
correct space assigned on the reporting form. If the federal 434  
court so assesses and transcribes the points chargeable for the 435  
offense and furnishes the report to the bureau, the bureau shall 436  
record the points in the same manner as those assessed and 437  
transcribed by a court of record or mayor's court. 438

(C) A court shall assess the following points for an 439  
offense based on the following formula: 440

(1) Aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular homicide, 441  
vehicular manslaughter, aggravated vehicular assault, or 442  
vehicular assault when the offense involves the operation of a 443  
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley on a highway or street 444  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6 points 445

(2) A violation of section 2921.331 of the Revised Code or 446  
any ordinance prohibiting the willful fleeing or eluding of a 447  
law enforcement officer \_\_\_\_\_ 6 points 448

(3) A violation of section 4549.02 or 4549.021 of the 449  
Revised Code or any ordinance requiring the driver of a vehicle 450



to stop and disclose identity at the scene of an accident	451
_____ 6 points	452
(4) A violation of section 4511.251 of the Revised Code or	453
any ordinance prohibiting street racing, stunt driving, or	454
street takeover _____ 6 points	455
(5) A violation of section 4510.037 of the Revised Code or	456
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while	457
the driver's or commercial driver's license is under a twelve-	458
point suspension _____ 6 points	459
(6) A violation of section 4510.14 of the Revised Code, or	460
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle upon	461
the public roads or highways within this state while the	462
driver's or commercial driver's license of the person is under	463
suspension and the suspension was imposed under section 4511.19,	464
4511.191, or 4511.196 of the Revised Code or section 4510.07 of	465
the Revised Code due to a conviction for a violation of a	466
municipal OVI ordinance or any ordinance prohibiting the	467
operation of a motor vehicle while the driver's or commercial	468
driver's license is under suspension for an OVI offense	469
_____ 6 points	470
(7) A violation of division (A) of section 4511.19 of the	471
Revised Code, any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a	472
vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse,	473
or a combination of them, or any ordinance substantially	474
equivalent to division (A) of section 4511.19 of the Revised	475
Code prohibiting the operation of a vehicle with a prohibited	476
concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a	477
metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood	478
serum or plasma, breath, or urine _____ 6 points	479

(8) A violation of section 2913.03 of the Revised Code	480
that does not involve an aircraft or motorboat or any ordinance	481
prohibiting the operation of a vehicle without the consent of	482
the owner _____ 6 points	483
(9) Any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state	484
that is a felony, or any other felony in the commission of which	485
a motor vehicle was used _____ 6 points	486
(10) A violation of division (B) of section 4511.19 of the	487
Revised Code or any ordinance substantially equivalent to that	488
division prohibiting the operation of a vehicle with a	489
prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood	490
serum or plasma, breath, or urine _____ 4 points	491
(11) A violation of section 4511.20 of the Revised Code or	492
any ordinance prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle in	493
willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property	494
_____ 4 points	495
(12) A violation of any law or ordinance pertaining to	496
speed:	497
(a) Notwithstanding divisions (C) (12) (b) and (c) of this	498
section, when the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit by thirty	499
miles per hour or more _____ 4 points	500
(b) When the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit of	501
fifty-five miles per hour or more by more than ten miles per	502
hour _____ 2 points	503
(c) When the speed exceeds the lawful speed limit of less	504
than fifty-five miles per hour by more than five miles per hour	505
_____ 2 points	506
(d) When the speed does not exceed the amounts set forth	507

in divisions (C) (12) (a), (b), or (c) of this section _____	508
0 points	509
(13) A violation of division (A) of section 4511.204 of	510
the Revised Code or any substantially similar municipal	511
ordinance:	512
(a) For a first offense within any two-year period	513
_____ 2 points	514
(b) For a second offense within any two-year period	515
_____ 3 points	516
(c) For a third or subsequent offense within any two-year	517
period _____ 4 points.	518
(14) <u>A violation of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the</u>	519
<u>Revised Code:</u>	520
<u>(a) For a first offense within any five-year period</u>	521
<u>2 points</u>	522
<u>(b) For a second or subsequent offense within any five-</u>	523
<u>year period _____ 4 points.</u>	524
<u>(15) Operating a motor vehicle in violation of a</u>	525
restriction imposed by the registrar _____ 2 points	526
<del>(15)</del> <u>(16) A violation of section 4510.11, 4510.111,</u>	527
4510.16, or 4510.21 of the Revised Code or any ordinance	528
prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while the driver's	529
or commercial driver's license is under suspension _____ 2	530
points	531
<del>(16)</del> <u>(17) With the exception of violations under section</u>	532
4510.12 of the Revised Code where no points shall be assessed,	533
all other moving violations reported under this section	534

_____ 2 points	535
(D) Upon receiving notification from the proper court,	536
including a United States district court that has jurisdiction	537
within this state, the bureau shall delete any points entered	538
for a bond forfeiture if the driver is acquitted of the offense	539
for which bond was posted.	540
(E) If a person is convicted of or forfeits bail for two	541
or more offenses arising out of the same facts and points are	542
chargeable for each of the offenses, points shall be charged for	543
only the conviction or bond forfeiture for which the greater	544
number of points is chargeable, and, if the number of points	545
chargeable for each offense is equal, only one offense shall be	546
recorded, and points shall be charged only for that offense.	547
<b>Sec. 4511.75.</b> <del>(A)</del> <u>(A) (1)</u> The driver of a vehicle,	548
streetcar, or trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from	549
either direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of	550
receiving or discharging any school child, person attending	551
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county	552
boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a	553
program offered by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten	554
feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not	555
proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled	556
by the school bus driver <u>or a law enforcement officer</u> to	557
proceed.	558
<u>(2)</u> It is no defense to a charge under <del>this division</del> <u>(A)</u>	559
<u>(1) of this section</u> that the school bus involved failed to	560
display or be equipped with an automatically extended stop	561
warning sign as required by division (B) of this section.	562
(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red	563

visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of 564  
the Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning 565  
sign of a type approved by the department of education and 566  
workforce, which shall be actuated by the driver of the bus 567  
whenever but only whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the 568  
roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school 569  
children, persons attending programs offered by community boards 570  
of mental health and county boards of developmental 571  
disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head 572  
start agencies. A school bus driver shall not actuate the visual 573  
signals or the stop warning sign in designated school bus 574  
loading areas where the bus is entirely off the roadway or at 575  
school buildings when children or persons attending programs 576  
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 577  
of developmental disabilities are loading or unloading at 578  
curbside or at buildings when children attending programs 579  
offered by head start agencies are loading or unloading at 580  
curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign shall be 581  
synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule of the 582  
board. 583

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 584  
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 585  
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 586  
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of 587  
receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending 588  
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 589  
boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending 590  
programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any 591  
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking the school 592  
bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 593

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on 594

highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and 595  
discharge all school children, persons attending programs 596  
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 597  
of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs 598  
offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the 599  
highway. 600

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus 601  
until after any child, person attending programs offered by 602  
community boards of mental health and county boards of 603  
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 604  
by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has 605  
reached a place of safety on the child's or person's residence 606  
side of the road. 607

~~(F) (1)~~ (F) Whoever violates division (A) of this section 608  
may be fined an amount is guilty of passing a stopped school 609  
bus, an unclassified misdemeanor. The court, including a mayor's 610  
court, shall punish the offender in accordance with divisions 611  
(F) (1) to (6) of this section. 612

(1) (a) Except as provided in divisions (F) (1) (b) and (c) 613  
of this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a fine 614  
of not to exceed five less than two hundred fifty and not more 615  
than one thousand dollars. A 616

(b) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 617  
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 618  
this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a fine of 619  
not less than three hundred fifty and not more than two thousand 620  
dollars. 621

(c) In lieu of the fine range specified in division (F) (1) 622  
(a) of this section, the court may impose a fine of one hundred 623

fifty dollars for an offender who has not been convicted of or 624  
pleaded guilty to a prior violation of this section if the 625  
offender attends and successfully completes the school bus 626  
safety course described in division (F) (4) of this section 627  
within a time frame specified by the court. 628

(2) A person who is issued a citation for a violation of 629  
division (A) of this section is not permitted to enter a written 630  
plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the 631  
citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the 632  
proper court to answer the charge. 633

~~(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty~~ 634  
~~provided by law, the~~ (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in 635  
division (F) (3) (b) of this section, the court or mayor may 636  
impose upon ~~an~~ the offender who violates this section a class 637  
~~seven~~ six suspension of the offender's driver's license, 638  
commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, 639  
probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from 640  
the range specified in division ~~(A) (7)~~ (A) (6) of section 4510.02 641  
of the Revised Code. ~~When~~ 642

(b) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 643  
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 644  
this section, the court shall impose upon the offender a class 645  
five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial 646  
driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary 647  
license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range 648  
specified in division (A) (5) of section 4510.02 of the Revised 649  
Code. 650

(c) When a license is suspended under this section, the 651  
court ~~or mayor~~ shall cause the offender to deliver the license 652  
to the court, and the court or clerk of the court immediately 653

shall forward the license to the registrar of motor vehicles, 654  
together with notice of the court's action. 655

(4) If, within five years of the violation, the offender 656  
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a prior violation of 657  
this section, the court shall require the offender to attend and 658  
successfully complete a school bus safety course. The director 659  
of public safety shall develop the contents and determine the 660  
duration of the course. 661

(5) (a) Except as provided in division (F) (5) (b) of this 662  
section, the court shall assess points for the violation in 663  
accordance with section 4510.036 of the Revised Code. 664

(b) The court may waive the assessment of points for an 665  
offender who has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a 666  
prior violation of this section if the offender attends and 667  
successfully completes the school bus safety course described in 668  
division (F) (4) of this section within a time frame specified by 669  
the court. 670

(6) The court may impose any other penalty authorized 671  
under sections 2929.21 to 2929.28 of the Revised Code. However, 672  
the court shall not impose a fine or a suspension not otherwise 673  
specified in division (F) of this section. The court also shall 674  
not impose a jail term or community residential sanction. 675

(G) Any fine collected under this section shall be paid to 676  
the school bus safety fund created in section 3327.18 of the 677  
Revised Code and shall be used for the purposes established 678  
under that section. 679

(H) As used in this section: 680

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 681  
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 682



(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who 683  
attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus 684  
that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped 685  
with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type 686  
approved by the department, is painted the color and displays 687  
the markings described in section 4511.77 of the Revised Code, 688  
and is equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the 689  
requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised Code, 690  
irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more 691  
children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van 692  
owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its 693  
color, lights, or markings. 694

**Sec. 4511.751.** (A) As used in this section, "license 695  
plate" includes, but is not limited to, any temporary motor 696  
vehicle license registration issued under section 4503.182 of 697  
the Revised Code or similar law of another jurisdiction. 698

(B) When the operator of a school bus believes that a 699  
motorist has violated division (A) of section 4511.75 of the 700  
Revised Code, the operator shall report the license plate number 701  
and a general description of the vehicle and of the operator of 702  
the vehicle to the law enforcement agency exercising 703  
jurisdiction over the area where the alleged violation occurred. 704  
The information contained in the report relating to the license 705  
plate number and to the general description of the vehicle and 706  
the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation 707  
may be supplied by any person with first-hand knowledge of the 708  
information. Information of which the operator of the school bus 709  
has first-hand knowledge also may be corroborated by any other 710  
person, or an image, images, or video captured by a school bus 711  
camera installed pursuant to section 4511.76 of the Revised 712  
Code. 713

(C) (1) Upon receipt of the report of the alleged violation 714  
of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code, the law 715  
enforcement agency shall conduct an investigation to attempt to 716  
determine or confirm the identity of the operator of the vehicle 717  
at the time of the alleged violation. ~~if~~ 718

(2) If the identity of the operator at the time of the 719  
alleged violation is established, the reporting of the license 720  
plate number of the vehicle shall establish probable cause for 721  
the law enforcement agency to issue a citation for the violation 722  
of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code. ~~However,~~ 723  
~~if~~ 724

(3) If the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the 725  
time of the alleged violation cannot be established, the law 726  
enforcement agency shall issue a warning to the owner of the 727  
vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, except in the case 728  
of a leased or rented vehicle when the warning shall be issued 729  
to the lessee at the time of the alleged violation. 730

(4) A law enforcement agency shall not issue a citation in 731  
accordance with this section based solely on an image, images, 732  
or video captured by a camera installed pursuant to section 733  
4511.76 of the Revised Code, but such image, images, or video 734  
may corroborate other evidence and a report made in accordance 735  
with this section. 736

(D) (1) The registrar of motor vehicles and deputy 737  
registrars shall provide access to, at the time of issuing 738  
license plates or a driver's license to any person, ~~include with~~ 739  
~~the license plate~~ a summary of the following: 740

(a) The requirements of division (A) of section 4511.75 of 741  
the Revised Code ~~and the~~; 742

~~(b) The procedures of and penalty in division (F) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code;~~ 743  
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~~(c) The process, described in division (B) of this section, that allows any person with first-hand knowledge of a violation of division (A) of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code to corroborate the report made by the operator of a school bus.~~ 745  
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~~(2) The registrar shall make the summaries required under division (D)(1) of this section available on the bureau of motor vehicles' web site.~~ 749  
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**Sec. 4511.76.** (A) The department of public safety, by and with the advice of the department of education and workforce, shall educate the public regarding the laws pertaining to school bus safety and shall adopt and enforce rules relating to the construction, design, and equipment of all school buses both publicly and privately owned and operated in this state, including lighting rules governing both of the following: 752  
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~~(1) Lighting equipment required by section 4511.771 of the Revised Code, of all school buses both publicly and privately owned and operated in this state;~~ 759  
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~~(2) School bus camera equipment that captures an image, images, or video solely for purposes of recording a violation of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code. The departments shall not authorize school bus camera equipment to be used for automated enforcement of a violation of section 4511.75 of the Revised Code.~~ 762  
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(B) The department of education and workforce, by and with the advice of the director of public safety, shall adopt and enforce rules relating to the operation of all vehicles used for pupil transportation. 768  
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(C) No person shall operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state in violation of the rules of the department of education and workforce or the department of public safety. No person, being the owner thereof or having the supervisory responsibility therefor, shall permit the operation of a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state in violation of the rules of the department of education and workforce or the department of public safety.

(D) The department of public safety shall adopt and enforce rules relating to the issuance of a license under section 4511.763 of the Revised Code. The rules may relate to the condition of the equipment to be operated; the liability and property damage insurance carried by the applicant; the posting of satisfactory and sufficient bond; and such other rules as the director of public safety determines reasonably necessary for the safety of the pupils to be transported.

(E) A chartered nonpublic school or a community school may own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, a vehicle originally designed and manufactured for not more than ~~nine~~ ten passengers, ~~not~~ including the driver, to transport students to and from regularly scheduled school sessions when one of the following applies:

(1) A student's school district of residence has declared the transportation of the student impractical pursuant to section 3327.02 of the Revised Code;

(2) A student does not live within thirty minutes of the chartered nonpublic school or the community school, as applicable, and the student's school district is not required to transport the student under section 3327.01 of the Revised Code;

(3) The governing authority of the chartered nonpublic school or the community school has offered to provide the transportation for its students in lieu of the students being transported by their school district of residence.

(F) A school district may own and operate, or contract with a vendor that supplies, a vehicle originally designed and manufactured for not more than ~~nine-ten~~ passengers, ~~not~~ including the driver, to transport students to and from regularly scheduled school sessions, if both of the following apply to the operation of that vehicle:

(1) The number of students to be transported is not more than nine;

(2) The students attend a chartered nonpublic school or a community school, and the school district regularly transports students to that chartered nonpublic school or that community school.

(G) A school district or the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school or community school that uses a vehicle originally designed and manufactured for not more than ~~nine-ten~~ passengers, ~~not~~ including the driver, in accordance with division (E) or (F) of this section, shall ensure that all of the following apply to the operation of that vehicle:

(1) A qualified mechanic inspects the vehicle not fewer than two times each year and determines that it is safe for pupil transportation;

(2) The driver of the vehicle does not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers;

(3) The driver of the vehicle meets the requirements specified for a driver of a school bus or motor van under

section 3327.10 of the Revised Code and any corresponding rules 830  
adopted by the department of education and workforce. 831  
Notwithstanding that section or any department rules to the 832  
contrary, the driver is not required to have a commercial 833  
driver's license but shall have a current, valid driver's 834  
license, and shall be accustomed to operating the vehicle used 835  
to transport the students; 836

(4) The driver and all passengers in the vehicle comply 837  
with the requirements of sections 4511.81 and 4513.263 of the 838  
Revised Code, as applicable. 839

(H) As used in this section, "vehicle used for pupil 840  
transportation" means any vehicle that is identified as such by 841  
the department of education and workforce by rule and that is 842  
subject to Chapter 3301-83 of the Administrative Code. 843

(I) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever 844  
violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the 845  
offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to 846  
one or more violations of this section or section 4511.63, 847  
4511.761, 4511.762, 4511.764, 4511.77, or 4511.79 of the Revised 848  
Code or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to 849  
any of those sections, whoever violates this section is guilty 850  
of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. 851

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4503.03, 4510.036, 852  
4511.75, 4511.751, and 4511.76 of the Revised Code are hereby 853  
repealed. 854

**Section 3.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 855  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 856  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 857  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 858

2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 859  
 The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 860  
 any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 861

**Section 4.** 862

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A		EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE		
B	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			
C	5BZ1 2006A6 School Bus Safety		\$0	\$25,000,000
D	TOTAL DPF Dedicated Purpose Fund Group		\$0	\$25,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$0	\$25,000,000

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY 864

Of the foregoing appropriation item 2006A6, School Bus 865  
 Safety, up to \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025 may be used by the 866  
 Department of Education and Workforce to administer the school 867  
 bus safety grant program under section 3327.19 of the Revised 868  
 Code. 869

The remainder of the foregoing appropriation item 2006A6, 870  
 School Bus Safety, shall be used to award school bus safety 871  
 grants pursuant to section 3327.19 of the Revised Code and 872  
 educate the public regarding the laws surrounding school bus 873  
 safety pursuant to section 3327.18 of the Revised Code. 874

Any unexpended and unencumbered portion of the foregoing 875  
 appropriation item 2006A6, School Bus Safety, at the end of 876

fiscal year 2025 is hereby reappropriated for the same purpose 877  
in fiscal year 2026. To the extent that reappropriated funds are 878  
available, of the foregoing appropriation item 2006A6, School 879  
Bus Safety, up to \$100,000 in fiscal year 2026 may be used by 880  
the Department to administer the school bus safety grant program 881  
under section 3327.19 of the Revised Code. 882

**Section 5.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 883  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 884  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 885  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 886  
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 887  
operating appropriations for fiscal year 2025 contained in this 888  
act shall be accounted for as though made in, and are subject to 889  
all applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General 890  
Assembly. Expenditures from any operating appropriations for 891  
fiscal year 2026 shall be accounted for as though made in, and 892  
are subject to all applicable provisions of, the main operating 893  
appropriations act of the 136th General Assembly. 894

**Section 6.** On the effective date of this section, or as 895  
soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and 896  
Management shall transfer \$25,000,000 cash from the General 897  
Revenue Fund to the School Bus Safety Fund (Fund 5BZ1) created 898  
in section 3327.18 of the Revised Code. 899

**Section 7.** This act shall be known as the School Bus 900  
Safety Act. 901