

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**S. B. No. 12**

**Senator Hoagland  
Cosponsor: Senator Lang**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 122.87, 122.925, 125.08, 125.081, 1  
and 4503.03 and to enact section 122.926 of the 2  
Revised Code to establish a veteran-owned 3  
business enterprise certification program and to 4  
allow duly certified veteran-owned business 5  
enterprises to compete for purchases set aside 6  
by state agencies. 7

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

**Section 1.** That sections 122.87, 122.925, 125.08, 125.081, 8  
and 4503.03 be amended and section 122.926 of the Revised Code 9  
be enacted to read as follows: 10

**Sec. 122.87.** As used in sections 122.87 to 122.90 of the 11  
Revised Code: 12

(A) "Surety company" means a company that is authorized by 13  
the department of insurance to issue bonds as surety. 14

(B) "Minority business" means any of the following 15  
occupations: 16

(1) Minority construction contractor; 17

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| (2) Minority seller;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 18                               |
| (3) Minority service vendor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 19                               |
| (C) "Minority construction contractor" means a person who<br>is both a construction contractor and an owner of a minority<br>business enterprise certified under division (B) of section<br>122.921 of the Revised Code.                                                                                                                    | 20<br>21<br>22<br>23             |
| (D) "Minority seller" means a person who is both a seller<br>of goods and an owner of a minority business enterprise listed<br>on the special <del>minority business enterprise bid</del> -notification<br>list under section 125.08 of the Revised Code.                                                                                   | 24<br>25<br>26<br>27             |
| (E) "Minority service vendor" means a person who is both a<br>vendor of services and an owner of a minority business<br>enterprise listed on the special <del>minority business enterprise-</del><br><del>bid</del> -notification list under section 125.08 of the Revised Code.                                                            | 28<br>29<br>30<br>31             |
| (F) "Minority business enterprise" has the meaning given<br>in section 122.71 of the Revised Code.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 32<br>33                         |
| (G) "EDGE business enterprise" means a sole<br>proprietorship, association, partnership, corporation, limited<br>liability corporation, or joint venture certified as a<br>participant in the encouraging diversity, growth, and equity<br>program by the director of administrative services under section<br>122.922 of the Revised Code. | 34<br>35<br>36<br>37<br>38<br>39 |
| <b>Sec. 122.925.</b> (A) As used in this section <u>and section</u><br><u>122.926 of the Revised Code:</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 40<br>41                         |
| "Armed forces" means the armed forces of the United<br>States, including the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast<br>guard, or any reserve component of those forces; the national<br>guard of any state; the commissioned corps of the United States                                                                                 | 42<br>43<br>44<br>45             |

public health service; the merchant marine service during 46  
wartime; such other service as may be designated by congress; 47  
and the Ohio organized militia when engaged in full-time 48  
national guard duty for a period of more than thirty days. 49

"State agency" has the meaning defined in section 1.60 of 50  
the Revised Code. 51

"Veteran" means any person who has completed service in 52  
the armed forces, including the national guard of any state, or 53  
a reserve component of the armed forces, who has been honorably 54  
discharged or discharged under honorable conditions from the 55  
armed forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with 56  
evidence of satisfactory service. 57

"Veteran-friendly business enterprise" means a sole 58  
proprietorship, association, partnership, corporation, limited 59  
liability company, or joint venture that meets veteran 60  
employment standards established by the director of development 61  
and the director of transportation under this section. 62

(B) The director of development and the director of 63  
transportation shall establish and maintain the veteran-friendly 64  
business procurement program. The director of development shall 65  
adopt rules to administer the program for all state agencies 66  
except the department of transportation, and the director of 67  
transportation shall adopt rules to administer the program for 68  
the department of transportation. The rules shall be adopted 69  
under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. The rules, as adopted 70  
separately by but with the greatest degree of consistency 71  
possible between the two directors, shall do all of the 72  
following: 73

(1) Establish criteria, based on the percentage of an 74

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| applicant's employees who are veterans, that qualifies an        | 75  |
| applicant for certification as a veteran-friendly business       | 76  |
| enterprise;                                                      | 77  |
| (2) Establish procedures by which a sole proprietorship,         | 78  |
| association, partnership, corporation, limited liability         | 79  |
| company, or joint venture may apply for certification as a       | 80  |
| veteran-friendly business enterprise;                            | 81  |
| (3) Establish procedures for certifying a sole                   | 82  |
| proprietorship, association, partnership, corporation, limited   | 83  |
| liability company, or joint venture as a veteran-friendly        | 84  |
| business enterprise;                                             | 85  |
| (4) Establish standards for determining when a veteran-          | 86  |
| friendly business enterprise no longer qualifies for             | 87  |
| certification as a veteran-friendly business enterprise;         | 88  |
| (5) Establish procedures, to be used by state agencies or        | 89  |
| the department of transportation, for the evaluation and ranking | 90  |
| of proposals, which provide preference or bonus points to each   | 91  |
| certified veteran-friendly business enterprise that submits a    | 92  |
| bid or other proposal for a contract with the state or an agency | 93  |
| of the state other than the department of transportation, or     | 94  |
| with the department of transportation, for the rendering of      | 95  |
| services, or the supplying of materials, or for the              | 96  |
| construction, demolition, alteration, repair, or reconstruction  | 97  |
| of any public building, structure, highway, or other             | 98  |
| improvement;                                                     | 99  |
| (6) Implement an outreach program to educate potential           | 100 |
| participants about the veteran-friendly business procurement     | 101 |
| program; and                                                     | 102 |
| (7) Establish a process for monitoring overall performance       | 103 |

of the veteran-friendly business procurement program. 104

(C) (1) Any person who has been certified as a veteran- 105  
friendly business enterprise under this section may present the 106  
person's certification to a political subdivision as evidence 107  
that the person is eligible to participate in any public 108  
initiatives or strategies that the political subdivision has 109  
established to reward veteran-friendly businesses or to increase 110  
the participation, representation, or inclusion of veteran- 111  
friendly businesses in business opportunities, and in any 112  
programs the political subdivision may have that set aside a 113  
certain amount of public contracts to award to veteran-friendly 114  
business enterprises. 115

(2) When considering this evidence, a political 116  
subdivision shall defer to the department's determination that 117  
the person meets the criteria established under division (B) (1) 118  
of this section. 119

**Sec. 122.926.** (A) As used in this section: 120

(1) "Veteran-owned business enterprise" means a sole 121  
proprietorship, association, partnership, corporation, limited 122  
liability company, or joint venture of any kind that is owned 123  
and controlled by a veteran who is a United States citizen and 124  
resident of this state. 125

(2) "Owned and controlled" means that at least fifty-one 126  
per cent of the business enterprise, including corporate stock 127  
if it is a corporation, is owned by a veteran and that such an 128  
owner has control over the day-to-day operations of the business 129  
and an interest in the capital, assets, and profits and losses 130  
of the business proportionate to the veteran's percentage of 131  
ownership. In order to qualify as a veteran-owned business 132

enterprise, a business enterprise shall have been owned by a 133  
veteran for at least one year. 134

(B) The director of development shall adopt rules in 135  
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to do all of 136  
the following: 137

(1) Establish procedures by which a business enterprise 138  
may apply for certification as a veteran-owned business 139  
enterprise; 140

(2) Establish standards to determine when a veteran-owned 141  
business enterprise no longer qualifies for veteran-owned 142  
business enterprise certification; 143

(3) Establish a process to mediate complaints and to 144  
review veteran-owned business enterprise certification appeals; 145

(4) Establish a system to assist state agencies in 146  
identifying and utilizing veteran-owned business enterprises in 147  
their contracting processes; 148

(5) Implement a system of self-reporting by veteran-owned 149  
business enterprises as well as an on-site inspection process to 150  
validate the qualifications of veteran-owned business 151  
enterprises. 152

(C) Business and personal financial information and trade 153  
secrets submitted by veteran-owned business enterprise 154  
applicants to the director pursuant to this section are not 155  
public records for purposes of section 149.43 of the Revised 156  
Code, unless the director presents the financial information or 157  
trade secrets at a public hearing or public proceeding regarding 158  
the applicant's eligibility to participate in the program. 159

**Sec. 125.08.** (A) Any person who is certified by the 160

director of development in accordance with the rules adopted 161  
under division (B) (1) of section 122.921 of the Revised Code as 162  
a minority business enterprise may have that person's name 163  
placed on a special ~~minority business enterprise~~ notification 164  
list to be used in connection with contracts awarded under 165  
section 125.081 of the Revised Code. The ~~minority business-~~ 166  
~~enterprise~~ special notification list shall be used for bidding 167  
on contracts set aside for ~~minority business enterprises-~~ 168  
~~only persons specified in division (A) of section 125.081 of the~~ 169  
Revised Code. 170

(B) Any person who is certified by the director of 171  
development in accordance with the rules adopted under division 172  
(B) of section 122.926 of the Revised Code as a veteran-owned 173  
business enterprise may have that person's name placed on the 174  
special notification list described in division (A) of this 175  
section. 176

**Sec. 125.081.** (A) As used in this section, "disadvantaged 177  
business enterprise" means a person certified by the director of 178  
development under division (B) of section 122.921 of the Revised 179  
Code or division (B) of section 122.926 of the Revised Code. 180

(B) From the purchases that the department of 181  
administrative services is required by law to make through 182  
competitive selection, the director of administrative services 183  
shall select a number of such purchases, the aggregate value of 184  
which equals approximately ~~fifteen~~ twenty per cent of the 185  
estimated total value of all such purchases to be made in the 186  
current fiscal year. The director shall set aside the purchases 187  
selected for competition only by ~~minority business enterprises,~~ 188  
~~as defined in division (E) (1) of section 122.71 of the Revised-~~ 189  
~~Code~~ disadvantaged business enterprises. The competitive 190

selection procedures for such purchases set aside shall be the 191  
same as for all other purchases the department is required to 192  
make through competitive selection, except that only ~~minority~~ 193  
~~business enterprises certified by the director of development in~~ 194  
~~accordance with the rules adopted under division (B) (1) of~~ 195  
~~section 122.921 of the Revised Code and the persons~~ listed under 196  
section 125.08 of the Revised Code shall be qualified to 197  
compete. Of the purchases selected by the director for 198  
competition only by disadvantaged business enterprises, only a 199  
person certified by the director of development under division 200  
(B) of section 122.921 of the Revised Code shall be qualified to 201  
compete for seventy-five per cent of such purchases. Only a 202  
person certified by the director of development under division 203  
(B) of section 122.926 of the Revised Code shall be qualified to 204  
compete for the remaining twenty-five per cent of such 205  
purchases. 206

~~(B)~~ (C) To the extent that any agency of the state, other 207  
than the department of administrative services, the legislative 208  
and judicial branches, boards of elections, and the adjutant 209  
general, is authorized to make purchases, the agency shall set 210  
aside a number of purchases, the aggregate value of which equals 211  
approximately ~~fifteen~~ twenty per cent of the aggregate value of 212  
such purchases for the current fiscal year for competition by 213  
~~minority business enterprises persons listed under section~~ 214  
125.08 of the Revised Code only. The procedures for such 215  
purchases shall be the same as for all other such purchases made 216  
by the agency, except that only ~~minority business enterprises~~ 217  
~~certified by the director of development in accordance with~~ 218  
~~rules adopted under division (B) (1) of section 123.151 persons~~ 219  
listed under section 125.08 of the Revised Code shall be 220  
qualified to compete. Of the purchases selected for competition 221



only by disadvantaged business enterprises under this division, 222  
only a person certified by the director of development under 223  
division (B) of section 122.921 of the Revised Code shall be 224  
qualified to compete for seventy-five per cent of such 225  
purchases. Only a person certified by the director of 226  
development under division (B) of section 122.926 of the Revised 227  
Code shall be qualified to compete for the remaining twenty-five 228  
per cent of such purchases. 229

~~(C)~~(D) In the case of purchases set aside under division 230  
~~(A)~~(B) or ~~(B)~~(C) of this section, if no bid is submitted by a 231  
minority disadvantaged business enterprise, the purchase shall 232  
be made according to usual procedures. The contracting agency 233  
shall from time to time set aside such additional purchases for 234  
which only minority disadvantaged business enterprises may 235  
compete, as are necessary to replace those purchases previously 236  
set aside for which no minority disadvantaged business 237  
enterprises bid and to ensure that, in any fiscal year, the 238  
aggregate amount of contracts awarded to minority disadvantaged 239  
business enterprises will equal approximately ~~fifteen~~twenty per 240  
cent of the total amount of contracts awarded by the agency. 241

~~(D)~~(E) The provisions of this section shall not preclude 242  
any minority disadvantaged business enterprise from competing 243  
for any other state purchases that are not specifically set 244  
aside for minority disadvantaged business enterprises. 245

~~(E)~~(F) No funds of any state agency shall be expended in 246  
any fiscal year for any purchase for which competitive selection 247  
is required, until the director of the department of 248  
administrative services certifies to the clerk of the senate and 249  
the clerk of the house of representatives of the general 250  
assembly that approximately ~~fifteen~~twenty per cent of the 251

aggregate amount of the projected expenditure for such purchases 252  
in the fiscal year has been set aside as provided for in this 253  
section. 254

~~(F)~~ (G) Any person who intentionally misrepresents self as 255  
owning, controlling, operating, or participating in a ~~minority-~~ 256  
disadvantaged business enterprise for the purpose of obtaining 257  
contracts, subcontracts, or any other benefits under this 258  
section shall be guilty of theft by deception as provided for in 259  
section 2913.02 of the Revised Code. 260

**Sec. 4503.03.** (A) (1) (a) Except as provided in division (B) 261  
of this section, the registrar of motor vehicles may designate 262  
one or more of the following persons to act as a deputy 263  
registrar in each county: 264

(i) The county auditor in any county, subject to division 265  
(A) (1) (b) (i) of this section; 266

(ii) The clerk of a court of common pleas in any county, 267  
subject to division (A) (1) (b) (ii) of this section; 268

(iii) An individual; 269

(iv) A nonprofit corporation as defined in division (C) of 270  
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 271

(b) (i) If the population of a county is forty thousand or 272  
less according to the most recent federal decennial census and 273  
if the county auditor is designated by the registrar as a deputy 274  
registrar, no other person need be designated in the county to 275  
act as a deputy registrar. 276

(ii) The registrar may designate a clerk of a court of 277  
common pleas as a deputy registrar if the population of the 278  
county is forty thousand or less according to the last federal 279

census. In a county with a population greater than forty 280  
thousand but not more than fifty thousand according to the last 281  
federal census, the clerk of a court of common pleas is eligible 282  
to act as a deputy registrar and may participate in the 283  
competitive selection process for the award of a deputy 284  
registrar contract by applying in the same manner as any other 285  
person. All fees collected and retained by a clerk for 286  
conducting deputy registrar services shall be paid into the 287  
county treasury to the credit of the certificate of title 288  
administration fund created under section 325.33 of the Revised 289  
Code. 290

Notwithstanding the county population restrictions in 291  
division (A)(1)(b) of this section, if no person applies to act 292  
under contract as a deputy registrar in a county and the county 293  
auditor is not designated as a deputy registrar, the registrar 294  
may ask the clerk of a court of common pleas to serve as the 295  
deputy registrar for that county. 296

(c) As part of the selection process in awarding a deputy 297  
registrar contract, the registrar shall consider the customer 298  
service performance record of any person previously awarded a 299  
deputy registrar contract pursuant to division (A)(1) of this 300  
section. 301

(2) Deputy registrars shall accept applications for the 302  
annual license tax for any vehicle not taxed under section 303  
4503.63 of the Revised Code and shall assign distinctive numbers 304  
in the same manner as the registrar. Such deputies shall be 305  
located in such locations in the county as the registrar sees 306  
fit. There shall be at least one deputy registrar in each 307  
county. 308

Deputy registrar contracts are subject to the provisions 309

of division ~~(B)~~(C) of section 125.081 of the Revised Code. 310

(B) (1) The registrar shall not designate any person to act 311  
as a deputy registrar under division (A) (1) of this section if 312  
the person or, where applicable, the person's spouse or a member 313  
of the person's immediate family has made, within the current 314  
calendar year or any one of the previous three calendar years, 315  
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one hundred 316  
dollars to any person or entity included in division (A) (2) of 317  
section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. As used in this division, 318  
"immediate family" has the same meaning as in division (D) of 319  
section 102.01 of the Revised Code, and "entity" includes any 320  
political party and any "continuing association" as defined in 321  
division (C) (4) of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or 322  
"political action committee" as defined in division (C) (8) of 323  
that section that is primarily associated with that political 324  
party. For purposes of this division, contributions to any 325  
continuing association or any political action committee that is 326  
primarily associated with a political party shall be aggregated 327  
with contributions to that political party. 328

The contribution limitations contained in this division do 329  
not apply to any county auditor or clerk of a court of common 330  
pleas. A county auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas is 331  
not required to file the disclosure statement or pay the filing 332  
fee required under section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. The 333  
limitations of this division also do not apply to a deputy 334  
registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar 335  
contract, is elected to an office of a political subdivision. 336

(2) The registrar shall not designate either of the 337  
following to act as a deputy registrar: 338

(a) Any elected public official other than a county 339

auditor or, as authorized by division (A) (1) (b) of this section, 340  
a clerk of a court of common pleas, acting in an official 341  
capacity, except that, the registrar shall continue and may 342  
renew a contract with any deputy registrar who, subsequent to 343  
being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to an 344  
office of a political subdivision; 345

(b) Any person holding a current, valid contract to 346  
conduct motor vehicle inspections under section 3704.14 of the 347  
Revised Code. 348

(3) As used in division (B) of this section, "political 349  
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the 350  
Revised Code. 351

(C) (1) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this 352  
section, deputy registrars are independent contractors and 353  
neither they nor their employees are employees of this state, 354  
except that nothing in this section shall affect the status of 355  
county auditors or clerks of courts of common pleas as public 356  
officials, nor the status of their employees as employees of any 357  
of the counties of this state, which are political subdivisions 358  
of this state. Each deputy registrar shall be responsible for 359  
the payment of all unemployment compensation premiums, all 360  
workers' compensation premiums, social security contributions, 361  
and any and all taxes for which the deputy registrar is legally 362  
responsible. Each deputy registrar shall comply with all 363  
applicable federal, state, and local laws requiring the 364  
withholding of income taxes or other taxes from the compensation 365  
of the deputy registrar's employees. Each deputy registrar shall 366  
maintain during the entire term of the deputy registrar's 367  
contract a policy of business liability insurance satisfactory 368  
to the registrar and shall hold the department of public safety, 369

the director of public safety, the bureau of motor vehicles, and 370  
the registrar harmless upon any and all claims for damages 371  
arising out of the operation of the deputy registrar agency. 372

(2) For purposes of Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code, 373  
determinations concerning the employment of deputy registrars 374  
and their employees shall be made under Chapter 4141. of the 375  
Revised Code. 376

(D) (1) With the approval of the director, the registrar 377  
shall adopt rules governing deputy registrars. The rules shall 378  
do all of the following: 379

(a) Establish requirements governing the terms of the 380  
contract between the registrar and each deputy registrar and the 381  
services to be performed; 382

(b) Establish requirements governing the amount of bond to 383  
be given as provided in this section; 384

(c) Establish requirements governing the size and location 385  
of the deputy's office; 386

(d) Establish requirements governing the leasing of 387  
equipment necessary to conduct the vision screenings required 388  
under section 4507.12 of the Revised Code and training in the 389  
use of the equipment; 390

(e) Encourage every deputy registrar to inform the public 391  
of the location of the deputy registrar's office and hours of 392  
operation by means of public service announcements; 393

(f) Allow any deputy registrar to advertise in regard to 394  
the operation of the deputy registrar's office, including 395  
allowing nonprofit corporations operating as a deputy registrar 396  
to advertise that a specified amount of proceeds collected by 397

the nonprofit corporation are directed to a specified charitable organization or philanthropic cause; 398  
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(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; 400  
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(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; 406  
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(i) Allow a deputy registrar contract to be awarded to a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of this state; 409  
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(j) Except as provided in division (D) (2) of this section, prohibit any deputy registrar from operating more than one deputy registrar's office at any time; 411  
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(k) For the duration of any deputy registrar contract, require that the deputy registrar occupy a primary residence in a location that is within a one-hour commute time from the deputy registrar's office or offices. The rules shall require the registrar to determine commute time by using multiple established internet-based mapping services. 414  
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(l) 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, 4510.72, and 4511.191 of the Revised Code and to transmit the reinstatement fees and two dollars of the service fee collected under those sections. The registrar shall ensure that at least one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment 420  
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and is able to accept reinstatement fees. The registrar shall 427  
deposit the service fees received from a deputy registrar under 428  
those sections into the public safety - highway purposes fund 429  
created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code and shall use the 430  
money for deputy registrar equipment necessary in connection 431  
with accepting reinstatement fees. 432

(m) Establish standards for a deputy registrar, when the 433  
deputy registrar is not a county auditor or a clerk of a court 434  
of common pleas, to sell advertising rights to third party 435  
businesses to be placed in the deputy registrar's office; 436

(n) Allow any deputy registrar that is not a county 437  
auditor or a clerk of a court of common pleas to operate a 438  
vending machine; 439

(o) Establish such other requirements as the registrar and 440  
director consider necessary to provide a high level of service. 441

(2) Notwithstanding division (D)(1)(j) of this section, 442  
the rules may allow both of the following: 443

(a) The registrar to award a contract to a deputy 444  
registrar to operate more than one deputy registrar's office if 445  
determined by the registrar to be practical; 446

(b) A nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of 447  
providing automobile-related services to its members or the 448  
public and that provides such services from more than one 449  
location in this state to operate a deputy registrar office at 450  
any location. 451

(3) As a daily adjustment, the bureau of motor vehicles 452  
shall credit to a deputy registrar the amount established under 453  
section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each damaged license 454  
plate or validation sticker the deputy registrar replaces as a 455



service to a member of the public. 456

(4) (a) With the prior approval of the registrar, each 457  
deputy registrar may conduct at the location of the deputy 458  
registrar's office any business that is consistent with the 459  
functions of a deputy registrar and that is not specifically 460  
mandated or authorized by this or another chapter of the Revised 461  
Code or by implementing rules of the registrar. 462

(b) In accordance with guidelines the director of public 463  
safety shall establish, a deputy registrar may operate or 464  
contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy 465  
registrar location if products of the vending machine are 466  
consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar. 467

(c) A deputy registrar may enter into an agreement with 468  
the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission pursuant to 469  
division (A) (11) of section 5537.04 of the Revised Code for the 470  
purpose of allowing the general public to acquire from the 471  
deputy registrar the electronic toll collection devices that are 472  
used under the multi-jurisdiction electronic toll collection 473  
agreement between the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure 474  
commission and any other entities or agencies that participate 475  
in such an agreement. The approval of the registrar is not 476  
necessary if a deputy registrar engages in this activity. 477

(5) As used in this section and in section 4507.01 of the 478  
Revised Code, "nonprofit corporation" has the same meaning as in 479  
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 480

(E) (1) Unless otherwise terminated and except for interim 481  
contracts lasting not longer than one year, contracts with 482  
deputy registrars shall be entered into through a competitive 483  
selection process and shall be limited in duration as follows: 484

(a) For contracts entered into between July 1, 1996 and 485  
June 29, 2014, for a period of not less than two years, but not 486  
more than three years; 487

(b) For contracts entered into on or after June 29, 2014, 488  
for a period of five years, unless the registrar determines that 489  
a shorter contract term is appropriate for a particular deputy 490  
registrar. 491

(2) All contracts with deputy registrars shall expire on 492  
the last Saturday of June in the year of their expiration. Prior 493  
to the expiration of any deputy registrar contract, the 494  
registrar, with the approval of the director, may award a one- 495  
year contract extension to any deputy registrar who has provided 496  
exemplary service based upon objective performance evaluations. 497

(3) (a) The auditor of state may examine the accounts, 498  
reports, systems, and other data of each deputy registrar at 499  
least every two years. The registrar, with the approval of the 500  
director, shall immediately remove a deputy who violates any 501  
provision of the Revised Code related to the duties as a deputy, 502  
any rule adopted by the registrar, or a term of the deputy's 503  
contract with the registrar. The registrar also may remove a 504  
deputy who, in the opinion of the registrar, has engaged in any 505  
conduct that is either unbecoming to one representing this state 506  
or is inconsistent with the efficient operation of the deputy's 507  
office. 508

(b) If the registrar, with the approval of the director, 509  
determines that there is good cause to believe that a deputy 510  
registrar or a person proposing for a deputy registrar contract 511  
has engaged in any conduct that would require the denial or 512  
termination of the deputy registrar contract, the registrar may 513  
require the production of books, records, and papers as the 514

registrar determines are necessary, and may take the depositions 515  
of witnesses residing within or outside the state in the same 516  
manner as is prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in 517  
civil actions in the court of common pleas, and for that purpose 518  
the registrar may issue a subpoena for any witness or a subpoena 519  
duces tecum to compel the production of any books, records, or 520  
papers, directed to the sheriff of the county where the witness 521  
resides or is found. Such a subpoena shall be served and 522  
returned in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case is 523  
served and returned. The fees of the sheriff shall be the same 524  
as that allowed in the court of common pleas in criminal cases. 525  
Witnesses shall be paid the fees and mileage provided for under 526  
section 119.094 of the Revised Code. The fees and mileage shall 527  
be paid from the fund in the state treasury for the use of the 528  
agency in the same manner as other expenses of the agency are 529  
paid. 530

In any case of disobedience or neglect of any subpoena 531  
served on any person or the refusal of any witness to testify to 532  
any matter regarding which the witness lawfully may be 533  
interrogated, the court of common pleas of any county where the 534  
disobedience, neglect, or refusal occurs or any judge of that 535  
court, on application by the registrar, shall compel obedience 536  
by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in the case of 537  
disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from that 538  
court, or a refusal to testify in that court. 539

(4) Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be 540  
construed to require a hearing of any nature prior to the 541  
termination of any deputy registrar contract by the registrar, 542  
with the approval of the director, for cause. 543

(F) Except as provided in section 2743.03 of the Revised 544

Code, no court, other than the court of common pleas of Franklin 545  
county, has jurisdiction of any action against the department of 546  
public safety, the director, the bureau, or the registrar to 547  
restrain the exercise of any power or authority, or to entertain 548  
any action for declaratory judgment, in the selection and 549  
appointment of, or contracting with, deputy registrars. Neither 550  
the department, the director, the bureau, nor the registrar is 551  
liable in any action at law for damages sustained by any person 552  
because of any acts of the department, the director, the bureau, 553  
or the registrar, or of any employee of the department or 554  
bureau, in the performance of official duties in the selection 555  
and appointment of, and contracting with, deputy registrars. 556

(G) The registrar shall assign to each deputy registrar a 557  
series of numbers sufficient to supply the demand at all times 558  
in the area the deputy registrar serves, and the registrar shall 559  
keep a record in the registrar's office of the numbers within 560  
the series assigned. Except as otherwise provided in section 561  
3.061 of the Revised Code, each deputy shall be required to give 562  
bond in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars, or 563  
in such higher amount as the registrar determines necessary, 564  
based on a uniform schedule of bond amounts established by the 565  
registrar and determined by the volume of registrations handled 566  
by the deputy. The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the 567  
registrar. The bonds required of deputy registrars, in the 568  
discretion of the registrar, may be individual or schedule bonds 569  
or may be included in any blanket bond coverage carried by the 570  
department. 571

(H) Each deputy registrar shall keep a file of each 572  
application received by the deputy and shall register that motor 573  
vehicle with the name and address of its owner. 574

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

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

**Section 2.** That existing sections 122.87, 122.925, 125.08, 125.081, and 4503.03 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.