

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 115**

**Representatives Demetriou, Roemer**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Daniels, Dovilla, Gross, Klopfenstein, Lorenz, Ray,  
Thomas, D., Williams, Workman**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3704.14, 4503.10, 4503.102, and 1  
4503.103 of the Revised Code to create an 2  
alternative method to certify compliance with 3  
the E-Check program and to name this act the E- 4  
Check Ease Act. 5

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3704.14, 4503.10, 4503.102, and 6  
4503.103 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 3704.14.** (A) (1) If the director of environmental 8  
protection determines that implementation of a motor vehicle 9  
inspection and maintenance program is necessary for the state to 10  
effectively comply with the federal Clean Air Act after June 30, 11  
2023, the director may provide for the implementation of the 12  
program in those counties in this state in which such a program 13  
is federally mandated. Upon making such a determination, the 14  
director of environmental protection may request the director of 15  
administrative services to extend the terms of the contract that 16  
was entered into under the authority of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 17  
131st general assembly. Upon receiving the request, the director 18

of administrative services shall extend the contract, beginning 19  
on July 1, 2023, in accordance with this section. The contract 20  
shall be extended for a period of up to twenty-four months with 21  
the contractor who conducted the motor vehicle inspection and 22  
maintenance program under that contract. 23

(2) Prior to the expiration of the contract extension that 24  
is authorized by division (A)(1) of this section, the director 25  
of environmental protection shall request the director of 26  
administrative services to enter into a contract with a vendor 27  
to operate a decentralized motor vehicle inspection and 28  
maintenance program in each county in this state in which such a 29  
program is federally mandated through June 30, 2027, with an 30  
option for the state to renew the contract for a period of up to 31  
twenty-four months through June 30, 2029. The contract shall 32  
ensure that the decentralized motor vehicle inspection and 33  
maintenance program achieves at least the same emission 34  
reductions as achieved by the program operated under the 35  
authority of the contract that was extended under division (A) 36  
(1) of this section. The director of administrative services 37  
shall select a vendor through a competitive selection process in 38  
compliance with Chapter 125. of the Revised Code. 39

(3) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the director 40  
of administrative services shall ensure that a competitive 41  
selection process regarding a contract to operate a 42  
decentralized motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program 43  
in this state incorporates the following, which shall be 44  
included in the contract: 45

(a) For purposes of expanding the number of testing 46  
locations for consumer convenience, a requirement that the 47  
vendor utilize established local businesses, auto repair 48

facilities, or leased properties to operate state-approved 49  
inspection and maintenance testing facilities; 50

(b) A requirement that the vendor selected to operate the 51  
program provide notification of the program's requirements to 52  
each owner of a motor vehicle that is required to be inspected 53  
under the program. The contract shall require the notification 54  
to be provided not later than sixty days prior to the date by 55  
which the owner of the motor vehicle is required to have the 56  
motor vehicle inspected. The director of environmental 57  
protection and the vendor shall jointly agree on the content of 58  
the notice. However, the notice shall include at a minimum the 59  
locations of all inspection facilities within a specified 60  
distance of the address that is listed on the owner's motor 61  
vehicle registration; 62

(c) A requirement that the vendor comply with testing 63  
methodology and supply the required equipment approved by the 64  
director of environmental protection as specified in the 65  
competitive selection process in compliance with Chapter 125. of 66  
the Revised Code. 67

(4) A decentralized motor vehicle inspection and 68  
maintenance program operated under this section shall comply 69  
with division (B) of this section. The director of environmental 70  
protection shall administer the decentralized motor vehicle 71  
inspection and maintenance program operated under this section. 72

(B) The director shall establish a decentralized motor 73  
vehicle inspection and maintenance program as authorized by this 74  
section and, at a minimum, the director shall ~~do~~ ensure that the 75  
program does all of the following: 76

(1) ~~Comply~~ Complies with the federal Clean Air Act; 77

(2) ~~Provide~~ Provides for the issuance of inspection 78  
certificates and alternative emissions certificates as specified 79  
in rules adopted under division (C) (2) of this section; 80

(3) ~~Provide~~ Provides for a new car exemption for motor 81  
vehicles ~~four~~ six years old or newer and ~~provide~~ provides that a 82  
new motor vehicle is exempt for ~~four~~ six years regardless of 83  
whether legal title to the motor vehicle is transferred during 84  
that period; 85

(4) ~~Provide~~ Provides for an exemption for battery electric 86  
motor vehicles; 87

(5) Provides for an exemption for hybrid motor vehicles 88  
seven years old or newer and provides that a hybrid motor 89  
vehicle is exempt for seven years regardless of whether legal 90  
title to the motor vehicle is transferred during that period. 91

(C) (1) The director of environmental protection shall 92  
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 93  
that the director determines are necessary to implement this 94  
section. The director may continue to implement and enforce 95  
rules pertaining to the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance 96  
program previously implemented under former section 3704.14 of 97  
the Revised Code as that section existed prior to its repeal and 98  
reenactment by Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th general assembly, 99  
provided that the rules do not conflict with this section. 100

~~(2) The director of environmental protection shall issue~~ 101  
~~an inspection certificate provided for under division (B) (2) of~~ 102  
~~this section in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised~~ 103  
~~Code to an applicant if either of the following applies:~~ 104

~~(a) The individual holds a certificate or license in~~ 105  
~~another state.~~ 106

~~(b) The individual has satisfactory work experience, a  
government certification, or a private certification as  
described in that chapter as a vehicle inspector in a state that  
does not issue that certificate.~~

The rules adopted under division (C)(1) of this section  
shall provide for the issuance of inspections certificates and  
alternative emissions certificates. Under the rules, an  
inspection certificate shall be issued to the owner or lessee of  
a motor vehicle when the motor vehicle passes an emissions  
inspection conducted in accordance with the motor vehicle  
inspection and maintenance program established under this  
section. In lieu of obtaining an inspection certificate, the  
rules shall establish a system by which the owner or lessee of a  
motor vehicle may request an alternative emissions certificate  
from the director.

(a) The rules providing for the issuance of alternative  
emissions certificates shall require an owner or lessee of a  
motor vehicle to do the following in order to receive the  
certificate:

(i) Complete and submit an attestation form created by the  
director that includes a statement that reads substantially as  
follows:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, attest that, to the best of my knowledge, the  
motor vehicle concerning which I am the owner or lessee complies  
with all laws of Ohio and the United States governing motor  
vehicle emissions. I, \_\_\_\_\_, am aware that a false statement on  
this form is not permitted."

(ii) Sign and date the form either manually or  
electronically;

<u>(iii) Submit the form to the director either by regular</u>	136
<u>mail, certified mail, or electronically.</u>	137
<u>(b) The rules shall require the director to include both</u>	138
<u>of the following additional information on the attestation form:</u>	139
<u>(i) A provision that allows the owner or lessee of a motor</u>	140
<u>vehicle to specify one of the following methods by which the</u>	141
<u>owner or lessee may request delivery of the alternative</u>	142
<u>emissions certificate: certified mail, noncertified mail, or</u>	143
<u>electronically;</u>	144
<u>(ii) A provision that allows the owner or lessee of a</u>	145
<u>motor vehicle to specify the vehicle identification number,</u>	146
<u>make, model, and year of the relevant motor vehicle and the date</u>	147
<u>the attestation form is submitted to the director.</u>	148
<u>(c) Subject to division (C) (2) (d) of this section, the</u>	149
<u>rules shall require the director to deliver an alternative</u>	150
<u>emission certificate to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle</u>	151
<u>who complies with rules adopted under division (C) (2) (a) of this</u>	152
<u>section. The director shall deliver the certificate within</u>	153
<u>thirty business days after the director's receipt of the</u>	154
<u>attestation form or, if the owner or lessee submits the form</u>	155
<u>electronically, within five business days after receipt of the</u>	156
<u>form. The director shall confirm the receipt of the attestation</u>	157
<u>form if the director receives it by electronic means.</u>	158
<u>(d) The rules shall require the director to reject an</u>	159
<u>attestation form for any of the following reasons:</u>	160
<u>(i) The motor vehicle that is the subject of the</u>	161
<u>attestation form was in an accident or collision within the two</u>	162
<u>years prior to the date of submission of the form, and the</u>	163
<u>accident or collision caused substantial damage to the internal</u>	164

structure of the motor vehicle. 165

(ii) The owner or lessee of the motor vehicle that is the 166  
subject of the attestation form has received a ticket, citation, 167  
or summons with regard to that motor vehicle within the two 168  
years prior to the date of submission of the form for a 169  
violation of section 4513.22 of the Revised Code or 170  
substantially equivalent municipal ordinance. 171

(iii) The information in the attestation form is 172  
determined by the director to be false. 173

If the director rejects an attestation form under division 174  
(C) (2) (d) (iii) of this section, the director shall provide 175  
notice to the owner or lessee that the attestation form was 176  
determined to be false. The notice shall inform the owner or 177  
lessee that the owner or lessee may submit a corrected form to 178  
the director within thirty days of the receipt of the notice. If 179  
the owner or lessee submits a corrected attestation form that 180  
complies with rules adopted under division (C) (2) of this 181  
section within that thirty-day period, the director shall issue 182  
an alternative emissions certificate to the owner or lessee. If 183  
the owner or lessee fails to correct the attestation form, the 184  
director shall require the owner or lessee to complete an 185  
emissions inspection and obtain an inspection certificate in 186  
accordance with rules adopted under this section. 187

If the director rejects an attestation form under division 188  
(C) (2) (d) (i) or (ii) of this section, the director shall require 189  
the owner or lessee to complete an emissions inspection and 190  
obtain an inspection certificate in accordance with rules 191  
adopted under this section. 192

(e) In adopting rules under division (C) (2) of this 193

section, the director shall ensure that the owner or lessee of a 194  
motor vehicle who falsifies an attestation form receives a 195  
notice that includes a statement that reads substantially as 196  
follows: "You have falsified an attestation form for your 197  
vehicle under the E-Check/motor vehicle emissions testing 198  
program. Your vehicle is registered in one of [insert the number 199  
of counties] counties in this state that has federal emission 200  
mandates imposed on it that the State of Ohio is required, under 201  
threat of penalty, to enforce. This letter serves as Ohio's only 202  
penalty for falsification of an attestation form. You have 203  
thirty days from the date of this notice to amend your 204  
attestation form and submit the amended form to the 205  
Environmental Protection Agency. However, if you choose not to 206  
submit an amended attestation form, you must have a motor 207  
vehicle emissions inspection conducted for your vehicle in 208  
accordance with section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and rules 209  
adopted under it." 210

(f) No penalties apply to a person who the director has 211  
determined to have falsified an attestation form, other than the 212  
issuance of the notice required under division (C) (2) (e) of this 213  
section. 214

(D) There is hereby created in the state treasury the auto 215  
emissions test fund, which shall consist of money received by 216  
the director from any cash transfers, state and local grants, 217  
and other contributions that are received for the purpose of 218  
funding the program established under this section. The director 219  
of environmental protection shall use money in the fund solely 220  
for the implementation, supervision, administration, operation, 221  
and enforcement of the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance 222  
program established under this section. Money in the fund shall 223  
not be used for either of the following: 224



(1) To pay for the inspection costs incurred by a motor vehicle dealer so that the dealer may provide inspection certificates to an individual purchasing a motor vehicle from the dealer when that individual resides in a county that is subject to the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program;

(2) To provide payment for more than one free passing emissions inspection or a total of three emissions inspections for a motor vehicle in any three-hundred-sixty-five-day period. The owner or lessee of a motor vehicle is responsible for inspection fees that are related to emissions inspections beyond one free passing emissions inspection or three total emissions inspections in any three-hundred-sixty-five-day period. Inspection fees that are charged by a contractor conducting emissions inspections under a motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program shall be approved by the director of environmental protection.

(E) The motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program established under this section expires upon the termination of all contracts entered into under this section and shall not be implemented beyond the final date on which termination occurs.

(F) As used in this section "battery electric motor vehicle" ~~has~~ and "hybrid motor vehicle" have the same ~~meaning~~ meanings as in section 4501.01 of the Revised Code.

**Sec. 4503.10.** (A) The owner of every snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, and all-purpose vehicle required to be registered under section 4519.02 of the Revised Code shall file an application for registration under section 4519.03 of the Revised Code. The owner of a motor vehicle, other than a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, that is not designed and constructed by the manufacturer for

operation on a street or highway may not register it under this 255  
chapter except upon certification of inspection pursuant to 256  
section 4513.02 of the Revised Code by the sheriff, or the chief 257  
of police of the municipal corporation or township, with 258  
jurisdiction over the political subdivision in which the owner 259  
of the motor vehicle resides. Except as provided in sections 260  
4503.103 and 4503.107 of the Revised Code, every owner of every 261  
other motor vehicle not previously described in this section and 262  
every person mentioned as owner in the last certificate of title 263  
of a motor vehicle that is operated or driven upon the public 264  
roads or highways shall cause to be filed each year, by mail or 265  
otherwise, in the office of the registrar of motor vehicles or a 266  
deputy registrar, a written or electronic application or a 267  
preprinted registration renewal notice issued under section 268  
4503.102 of the Revised Code, the form of which shall be 269  
prescribed by the registrar, for registration for the following 270  
registration year, which shall begin on the first day of January 271  
of every calendar year and end on the thirty-first day of 272  
December in the same year. Applications for registration and 273  
registration renewal notices shall be filed at the times 274  
established by the registrar pursuant to section 4503.101 of the 275  
Revised Code. A motor vehicle owner also may elect to apply for 276  
or renew a motor vehicle registration by electronic means using 277  
electronic signature in accordance with rules adopted by the 278  
registrar. Except as provided in division (J) of this section, 279  
applications for registration shall be made on blanks furnished 280  
by the registrar for that purpose, containing the following 281  
information: 282

(1) A brief description of the motor vehicle to be 283  
registered, including the year, make, model, and vehicle 284  
identification number, and, in the case of commercial cars, the 285

gross weight of the vehicle fully equipped computed in the	286
manner prescribed in section 4503.08 of the Revised Code;	287
(2) The name and residence address of the owner, and the	288
township and municipal corporation in which the owner resides;	289
(3) The district of registration, which shall be	290
determined as follows:	291
(a) In case the motor vehicle to be registered is used for	292
hire or principally in connection with any established business	293
or branch business, conducted at a particular place, the	294
district of registration is the municipal corporation in which	295
that place is located or, if not located in any municipal	296
corporation, the county and township in which that place is	297
located.	298
(b) In case the vehicle is not so used, the district of	299
registration is the municipal corporation or county in which the	300
owner resides at the time of making the application.	301
(4) Whether the motor vehicle is a new or used motor	302
vehicle;	303
(5) The date of purchase of the motor vehicle;	304
(6) Whether the fees required to be paid for the	305
registration or transfer of the motor vehicle, during the	306
preceding registration year and during the preceding period of	307
the current registration year, have been paid. Each application	308
for registration shall be signed by the owner, either manually	309
or by electronic signature, or pursuant to obtaining a limited	310
power of attorney authorized by the registrar for registration,	311
or other document authorizing such signature. If the owner	312
elects to apply for or renew the motor vehicle registration with	313
the registrar by electronic means, the owner's manual signature	314

is not required. 315

(7) The owner's social security number, driver's license 316  
number, or state identification number, or, where a motor 317  
vehicle to be registered is used for hire or principally in 318  
connection with any established business, the owner's federal 319  
taxpayer identification number. The bureau of motor vehicles 320  
shall retain in its records all social security numbers provided 321  
under this section, but the bureau shall not place social 322  
security numbers on motor vehicle certificates of registration. 323

(8) Whether the applicant wishes to certify willingness to 324  
make an anatomical gift if an applicant has not so certified 325  
under section 2108.05 of the Revised Code. The applicant's 326  
response shall not be considered in the decision of whether to 327  
approve the application for registration. 328

(B) (1) When an applicant first registers a motor vehicle 329  
in the applicant's name, the applicant shall provide proof of 330  
ownership of that motor vehicle. Proof of ownership may include 331  
any of the following: 332

(a) The applicant may present for inspection a physical 333  
certificate of title or memorandum certificate showing title to 334  
the motor vehicle to be registered in the name of the applicant. 335

(b) The applicant may present for inspection an electronic 336  
certificate of title for the applicant's motor vehicle in a 337  
manner prescribed by rules adopted by the registrar. 338

(c) The registrar or deputy registrar may electronically 339  
confirm the applicant's ownership of the motor vehicle. 340

An applicant is not required to present a certificate of 341  
title to an electronic motor vehicle dealer acting as a limited 342  
authority deputy registrar in accordance with rules adopted by 343

the registrar. 344

(2) When a motor vehicle inspection and maintenance 345  
program is in effect under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code 346  
and rules adopted under it, each application for registration 347  
for a vehicle required to be inspected under that section and 348  
those rules shall be accompanied by an inspection certificate or 349  
alternative emissions certificate for the motor vehicle issued 350  
in accordance with that section. 351

(3) An application for registration shall be refused if 352  
any of the following applies: 353

(a) The application is not in proper form. 354

(b) The application is prohibited from being accepted by 355  
division (D) of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 356  
4503.13, division (B) of section 4510.22, division (D) of 357  
section 4503.234, division (B)(1) of section 4521.10, or 358  
division (B) of section 5537.041 of the Revised Code. 359

(c) Proof of ownership is required but is not presented or 360  
confirmed in accordance with division (B)(1) of this section. 361

(d) All registration and transfer fees for the motor 362  
vehicle, for the preceding year or the preceding period of the 363  
current registration year, have not been paid. 364

(e) The owner or lessee does not have an inspection 365  
certificate or alternative emissions certificate for the motor 366  
vehicle as provided in section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, and 367  
rules adopted under it, if that section is applicable. 368

(4) This section does not require the payment of license 369  
or registration taxes on a motor vehicle for any preceding year, 370  
or for any preceding period of a year, if the motor vehicle was 371

not taxable for that preceding year or period under sections 372  
4503.02, 4503.04, 4503.11, 4503.12, and 4503.16 or Chapter 4504. 373  
of the Revised Code. 374

(5) When a certificate of registration is issued upon the 375  
first registration of a motor vehicle by or on behalf of the 376  
owner, the official issuing the certificate shall indicate the 377  
issuance with a stamp on the certificate of title or memorandum 378  
certificate or, in the case of an electronic certificate of 379  
title or electronic verification of ownership, an electronic 380  
stamp or other notation as specified in rules adopted by the 381  
registrar, and with a stamp on the inspection certificate for 382  
the motor vehicle, if any. 383

(6) The official also shall indicate, by a stamp or by 384  
other means the registrar prescribes, on the registration 385  
certificate issued upon the first registration of a motor 386  
vehicle by or on behalf of the owner the odometer reading of the 387  
motor vehicle as shown in the odometer statement included in or 388  
attached to the certificate of title. Upon each subsequent 389  
registration of the motor vehicle by or on behalf of the same 390  
owner, the official also shall so indicate the odometer reading 391  
of the motor vehicle as shown on the immediately preceding 392  
certificate of registration. 393

(7) The registrar shall include in the permanent 394  
registration record of any vehicle required to be inspected 395  
under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code the inspection 396  
certificate number from the inspection certificate or the 397  
alternative emissions certificate number from the alternative 398  
emissions certificate that is presented at the time of 399  
registration of the vehicle as required under this division. 400

(C) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (1) of 401

this section, the registrar and each deputy registrar shall 402  
collect an additional fee of eleven dollars for each application 403  
for registration and registration renewal received. For vehicles 404  
specified in divisions (A) (1) to (21) of section 4503.042 of the 405  
Revised Code, the registrar and deputy registrar shall collect 406  
an additional fee of thirty dollars for each application for 407  
registration and registration renewal received. No additional 408  
fee shall be charged for vehicles registered under section 409  
4503.65 of the Revised Code. The additional fee is for the 410  
purpose of defraying the department of public safety's costs 411  
associated with the administration and enforcement of the motor 412  
vehicle and traffic laws of Ohio. Each deputy registrar shall 413  
transmit the fees collected under divisions (C) (1) and (3) of 414  
this section in the time and manner provided in this section. 415  
The registrar shall deposit all moneys received under division 416  
(C) (1) of this section into the public safety - highway purposes 417  
fund established in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code. 418

(2) In addition, a charge of twenty-five cents shall be 419  
made for each reflectorized safety license plate issued, and a 420  
single charge of twenty-five cents shall be made for each county 421  
identification sticker or each set of county identification 422  
stickers issued, as the case may be, to cover the cost of 423  
producing the license plates and stickers, including material, 424  
manufacturing, and administrative costs. Those fees shall be in 425  
addition to the license tax. If the total cost of producing the 426  
plates is less than twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total 427  
cost of producing the stickers is less than twenty-five cents 428  
per sticker or per set issued, any excess moneys accruing from 429  
the fees shall be distributed in the same manner as provided by 430  
section 4501.04 of the Revised Code for the distribution of 431  
license tax moneys. If the total cost of producing the plates 432

exceeds twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total cost of 433  
producing the stickers exceeds twenty-five cents per sticker or 434  
per set issued, the difference shall be paid from the license 435  
tax moneys collected pursuant to section 4503.02 of the Revised 436  
Code. 437

(3) The registrar and each deputy registrar shall collect 438  
the following additional fee, as applicable, for each 439  
application for registration or registration renewal received 440  
for any hybrid motor vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric motor 441  
vehicle, or battery electric motor vehicle: 442

(a) One hundred dollars for a hybrid motor vehicle; 443

(b) One hundred fifty dollars for a plug-in hybrid 444  
electric motor vehicle; 445

(c) Two hundred dollars for a battery electric motor 446  
vehicle. 447

Each fee imposed under this division shall be prorated 448  
based on the number of months for which the vehicle is 449  
registered. The registrar shall transmit all money arising from 450  
each fee to the treasurer of state for distribution in 451  
accordance with division (E) of section 5735.051 of the Revised 452  
Code, subject to division (D) of section 5735.05 of the Revised 453  
Code. 454

(D) Each deputy registrar shall be allowed a fee equal to 455  
the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised 456  
Code for each application for registration and registration 457  
renewal notice the deputy registrar receives, which shall be for 458  
the purpose of compensating the deputy registrar for the deputy 459  
registrar's services, and such office and rental expenses, as 460  
may be necessary for the proper discharge of the deputy 461



registrar's duties in the receiving of applications and renewal 462  
notices and the issuing of registrations. 463

(E) Upon the certification of the registrar, the county 464  
sheriff or local police officials shall recover license plates 465  
erroneously or fraudulently issued. 466

(F) Each deputy registrar, upon receipt of any application 467  
for registration or registration renewal notice, together with 468  
the license fee and any local motor vehicle license tax levied 469  
pursuant to Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, shall transmit 470  
that fee and tax, if any, in the manner provided in this 471  
section, together with the original and duplicate copy of the 472  
application, to the registrar. The registrar, subject to the 473  
approval of the director of public safety, may deposit the funds 474  
collected by those deputies in a local bank or depository to the 475  
credit of the "state of Ohio, bureau of motor vehicles." Where a 476  
local bank or depository has been designated by the registrar, 477  
each deputy registrar shall deposit all moneys collected by the 478  
deputy registrar into that bank or depository not more than one 479  
business day after their collection and shall make reports to 480  
the registrar of the amounts so deposited, together with any 481  
other information, some of which may be prescribed by the 482  
treasurer of state, as the registrar may require and as 483  
prescribed by the registrar by rule. The registrar, within three 484  
days after receipt of notification of the deposit of funds by a 485  
deputy registrar in a local bank or depository, shall draw on 486  
that account in favor of the treasurer of state. The registrar, 487  
subject to the approval of the director and the treasurer of 488  
state, may make reasonable rules necessary for the prompt 489  
transmittal of fees and for safeguarding the interests of the 490  
state and of counties, townships, municipal corporations, and 491  
transportation improvement districts levying local motor vehicle 492

license taxes. The registrar may pay service charges usually 493  
collected by banks and depositories for such service. If deputy 494  
registrars are located in communities where banking facilities 495  
are not available, they shall transmit the fees forthwith, by 496  
money order or otherwise, as the registrar, by rule approved by 497  
the director and the treasurer of state, may prescribe. The 498  
registrar may pay the usual and customary fees for such service. 499

(G) This section does not prevent any person from making 500  
an application for a motor vehicle license directly to the 501  
registrar by mail, by electronic means, or in person at any of 502  
the registrar's offices, upon payment of a service fee equal to 503  
the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised 504  
Code for each application. 505

(H) No person shall make a false statement as to the 506  
district of registration in an application required by division 507  
(A) of this section. Violation of this division is falsification 508  
under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and punishable as 509  
specified in that section. 510

(I) (1) Where applicable, the requirements of division (B) 511  
of this section relating to the presentation of an inspection 512  
certificate issued under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and 513  
rules adopted under it for a motor vehicle, the refusal of a 514  
license for failure to present an inspection certificate or 515  
alternative emissions certificate, and the stamping of the 516  
inspection certificate or alternative emissions certificate by 517  
the official issuing the certificate of registration apply to 518  
the registration of and issuance of license plates for a motor 519  
vehicle under sections 4503.102, 4503.12, 4503.14, 4503.15, 520  
4503.16, 4503.171, 4503.172, 4503.19, 4503.40, 4503.41, 4503.42, 521  
4503.43, 4503.44, 4503.46, 4503.47, and 4503.51 of the Revised 522

Code. 523

(2) (a) The registrar shall adopt rules ensuring that each 524  
owner registering a motor vehicle in a county where a motor 525  
vehicle inspection and maintenance program is in effect under 526  
section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it 527  
receives information about the requirements established in that 528  
section and those rules and about the need in those counties to 529  
present an inspection certificate or an alternative emissions 530  
certificate with an application for registration or 531  
preregistration. 532

(b) Upon request, the registrar shall provide the director 533  
of environmental protection, or any person that has been awarded 534  
a contract under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, an on-line 535  
computer data link to registration information for all passenger 536  
cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars that are 537  
subject to that section. The registrar also shall provide to the 538  
director of environmental protection a magnetic data tape 539  
containing registration information regarding passenger cars, 540  
noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars for which a 541  
multi-year registration is in effect under section 4503.103 of 542  
the Revised Code or rules adopted under it, including, without 543  
limitation, the date of issuance of the multi-year registration, 544  
the registration deadline established under rules adopted under 545  
section 4503.101 of the Revised Code that was applicable in the 546  
year in which the multi-year registration was issued, and the 547  
registration deadline for renewal of the multi-year 548  
registration. 549

(J) Subject to division (K) of this section, application 550  
for registration under the international registration plan, as 551  
set forth in sections 4503.60 to 4503.66 of the Revised Code, 552

shall be made to the registrar on forms furnished by the 553  
registrar. In accordance with international registration plan 554  
guidelines and pursuant to rules adopted by the registrar, the 555  
forms shall include the following: 556

(1) A uniform mileage schedule; 557

(2) The gross vehicle weight of the vehicle or combined 558  
gross vehicle weight of the combination vehicle as declared by 559  
the registrant; 560

(3) Any other information the registrar requires by rule. 561

(K) The registrar shall determine the feasibility of 562  
implementing an electronic commercial fleet licensing and 563  
management program that will enable the owners of commercial 564  
tractors, commercial trailers, and commercial semitrailers to 565  
conduct electronic transactions by July 1, 2010, or sooner. If 566  
the registrar determines that implementing such a program is 567  
feasible, the registrar shall adopt new rules under this 568  
division or amend existing rules adopted under this division as 569  
necessary in order to respond to advances in technology. 570

If international registration plan guidelines and 571  
provisions allow member jurisdictions to permit applications for 572  
registrations under the international registration plan to be 573  
made via the internet, the rules the registrar adopts under this 574  
division shall permit such action. 575

**Sec. 4503.102.** (A) The registrar of motor vehicles shall 576  
adopt rules to establish a centralized system of motor vehicle 577  
registration renewal by mail or by electronic means. Any person 578  
owning a motor vehicle that was registered in the person's name 579  
during the preceding registration year shall renew the 580  
registration of the motor vehicle not more than ninety days 581

prior to the expiration date of the registration either by mail 582  
or by electronic means through the centralized system of 583  
registration established under this section, or in person at any 584  
office of the registrar or at a deputy registrar's office. 585

(B) (1) Except as provided in division (B) (2) of this 586  
section, no less than forty-five days prior to the expiration 587  
date of any motor vehicle registration, the registrar shall mail 588  
a renewal notice to the person in whose name the motor vehicle 589  
is registered. The renewal notice shall clearly state that the 590  
registration of the motor vehicle may be renewed by mail or 591  
electronic means through the centralized system of registration 592  
or in person at any office of the registrar or at a deputy 593  
registrar's office and shall be preprinted with information 594  
including, but not limited to, the owner's name and residence 595  
address as shown in the records of the bureau of motor vehicles, 596  
a brief description of the motor vehicle to be registered, 597  
notice of the license taxes and fees due on the motor vehicle, 598  
the toll-free telephone number of the registrar as required 599  
under division (D) (1) of section 4503.031 of the Revised Code, a 600  
statement that payment for a renewal may be made by financial 601  
transaction device using the toll-free telephone number, and any 602  
additional information the registrar may require by rule. The 603  
renewal notice shall not include the social security number of 604  
either the owner of the motor vehicle or the person in whose 605  
name the motor vehicle is registered. The renewal notice shall 606  
be sent by regular mail to the owner's last known address as 607  
shown in the records of the bureau of motor vehicles. 608

(2) The registrar is not required to mail a renewal notice 609  
if either of the following applies: 610

(a) The owner of the vehicle has consented to receiving 611

the renewal notice by electronic means only. 612

(b) The application for renewal of the registration of a 613  
motor vehicle is prohibited from being accepted by the registrar 614  
or a deputy registrar by division (D) of section 2935.27, 615  
division (A) of section 4503.13, division (B) of section 616  
4510.22, division (D) of section 4503.234, division (B)(1) of 617  
section 4521.10, or division (B) of section 5537.041 of the 618  
Revised Code. 619

(3) If the owner of a motor vehicle has consented to 620  
receiving a renewal notice by electronic means only, the 621  
registrar shall send an electronic renewal notice to the owner 622  
that contains the information specified in division (B)(1) of 623  
this section at the time specified under that division. 624

(C) The owner of the motor vehicle shall verify the 625  
information contained in the notice, sign it either manually or 626  
by electronic means, and return it, either by mail or electronic 627  
means, or the owner may take it in person to any office of the 628  
registrar or of a deputy registrar. The owner shall include with 629  
the notice a financial transaction device number when renewing 630  
in person or by electronic means but not by mail, check, or 631  
money order in the amount of the registration taxes and fees 632  
payable on the motor vehicle and a service fee equal to the 633  
amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised Code, 634  
plus postage as indicated on the notice if the registration is 635  
renewed or fulfilled by mail, and an inspection certificate or 636  
alternative emissions certificate for the motor vehicle as 637  
provided in section 3704.14 of the Revised Code. For purposes of 638  
the centralized system of motor vehicle registration, the 639  
registrar shall accept payments via the toll-free telephone 640  
number established under division (D)(1) of section 4503.031 of 641

the Revised Code for renewals made by mail. If the motor vehicle owner chooses to renew the motor vehicle registration by electronic means, the owner shall proceed in accordance with the rules the registrar adopts.

(D) If all registration and transfer fees for the motor vehicle for the preceding year or the preceding period of the current registration year have not been paid, if division (D) of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 4503.13, division (B) of section 4510.22, division (D) of section 4503.234, division (B) (1) of section 4521.10, or division (B) of section 5537.041 of the Revised Code prohibits acceptance of the renewal notice, or if the owner or lessee does not have an inspection certificate or alternative emissions certificate for the motor vehicle as provided in section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, if that section is applicable, the license shall be refused, and the registrar or deputy registrar shall so notify the owner. This section does not require the payment of license or registration taxes on a motor vehicle for any preceding year, or for any preceding period of a year, if the motor vehicle was not taxable for that preceding year or period under section 4503.02, 4503.04, 4503.11, 4503.12, or 4503.16 or Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code.

(E) (1) Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve a motor vehicle owner from the responsibility to renew the registration for the motor vehicle. Any person who has a motor vehicle registered in this state and who does not receive a renewal notice as provided in division (B) of this section prior to the expiration date of the registration shall request an application for registration from the registrar or a deputy registrar and sign the application manually or by electronic means and submit the application and pay any applicable license

taxes and fees to the registrar or deputy registrar. 673

(2) If the owner of a motor vehicle submits an application 674  
for registration and the registrar is prohibited by division (D) 675  
of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 4503.13, division 676  
(B) of section 4510.22, division (D) of section 4503.234, 677  
division (B)(1) of section 4521.10, or division (B) of section 678  
5537.041 of the Revised Code from accepting the application, the 679  
registrar shall return the application and the payment to the 680  
owner. If the owner of a motor vehicle submits a registration 681  
renewal application to the registrar by electronic means and the 682  
registrar is prohibited from accepting the application as 683  
provided in this division, the registrar shall notify the owner 684  
of this fact and deny the application and return the payment or 685  
give a credit on the financial transaction device account of the 686  
owner in the manner the registrar prescribes by rule adopted 687  
pursuant to division (A) of this section. 688

(F) Every deputy registrar shall post in a prominent place 689  
at the deputy's office a notice informing the public of the mail 690  
registration system required by this section and also shall post 691  
a notice that every owner of a motor vehicle and every chauffeur 692  
holding a certificate of registration is required to notify the 693  
registrar in writing of any change of residence within ten days 694  
after the change occurs. The notice shall be in such form as the 695  
registrar prescribes by rule. 696

(G) The service fee equal to the amount established under 697  
section 4503.038 of the Revised Code that is collected from a 698  
person who renews a motor vehicle registration by electronic 699  
means or by mail, plus postage collected by the registrar and 700  
any financial transaction device surcharge collected by the 701  
registrar, shall be paid to the credit of the public safety - 702



highway purposes fund established by section 4501.06 of the Revised Code.

(H) (1) Pursuant to section 113.40 of the Revised Code, the registrar shall implement a program permitting payment of motor vehicle registration taxes and fees, driver's license and commercial driver's license fees, and any other taxes, fees, penalties, or charges imposed or levied by the state by means of a financial transaction device for transactions occurring online, at any office of the registrar, and at all deputy registrar locations. The program shall take effect not later than July 1, 2016. The registrar shall adopt rules as necessary for this purpose, but all such rules are subject to any action, policy, or procedure of the board of deposit or treasurer of state taken or adopted under section 113.40 of the Revised Code.

(2) The rules adopted under division (H) (1) of this section shall require a deputy registrar to accept payments by means of a financial transaction device beginning on the effective date of the rules unless the deputy registrar contract entered into by the deputy registrar prohibits the acceptance of such payments by financial transaction device. However, commencing with deputy registrar contract awards that have a start date of July 1, 2016, and for all contract awards thereafter, the registrar shall require that the proposer accept payment by means of a financial transaction device, including credit cards and debit cards, for all department of public safety transactions conducted at that deputy registrar location.

The bureau and deputy registrars are not required to pay any costs that result from accepting payment by means of a financial transaction device. A deputy registrar may charge a person who tenders payment for a department transaction by means

of a financial transaction device any cost the deputy registrar 733  
incurs from accepting payment by the financial transaction 734  
device, but the deputy registrar shall not require the person to 735  
pay any additional fee of any kind in connection with the use by 736  
the person of the financial transaction device. 737

(3) In accordance with division (H) (1) of this section and 738  
rules adopted by the registrar under that division, a county 739  
auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas that is designated a 740  
deputy registrar shall accept payment by means of a financial 741  
transaction device, including credit cards and debit cards, for 742  
all department transactions conducted at the office of the 743  
county auditor or clerk in the county auditor's or clerk's 744  
capacity as deputy registrar. The bureau is not required to pay 745  
any costs incurred by a county auditor or clerk that result from 746  
accepting payment by means of a financial transaction device for 747  
any department transaction. 748

(I) For persons who reside in counties where tailpipe 749  
emissions inspections are required under the motor vehicle 750  
inspection and maintenance program, the notice required by 751  
division (B) of this section shall also include the toll-free 752  
telephone number maintained by the Ohio environmental protection 753  
agency to provide information concerning the locations of 754  
emissions testing centers. The registrar also shall include a 755  
statement in the notice that a battery electric motor vehicle is 756  
not required to undergo emissions inspection under the motor 757  
vehicle inspection and maintenance program established under 758  
section 3704.14 of the Revised Code. 759

**Sec. 4503.103.** (A) (1) The registrar of motor vehicles may 760  
adopt rules to permit any person or lessee, other than a person 761  
receiving an apportioned license plate under the international 762

registration plan, who owns or leases one or more motor vehicles 763  
to file a written application for registration for no more than 764  
five succeeding registration years. The rules adopted by the 765  
registrar may designate the classes of motor vehicles that are 766  
eligible for such registration. At the time of application, all 767  
annual taxes and fees shall be paid for each year for which the 768  
person is registering. 769

(2) (a) The registrar shall adopt rules to permit any 770  
person or lessee who owns or leases a trailer or semitrailer 771  
that is subject to the tax rate prescribed in either division 772  
(C) (1) or, beginning January 1, 2022, (C) (2) of section 4503.042 773  
of the Revised Code to file a written application for 774  
registration for any number of succeeding registration years, 775  
including a permanent registration, for such trailers or 776  
semitrailers. 777

At the time of application, the applicant shall pay all of 778  
the following: 779

(i) As applicable, either the annual tax prescribed in 780  
division (C) (1) of section 4503.042 of the Revised Code for each 781  
year for which the applicant is registering or the annual tax 782  
prescribed in division (C) (2) of section 4503.042 of the Revised 783  
Code, unless the applicant previously paid the tax specified in 784  
division (C) (2) of that section for the trailer or semitrailer 785  
being registered. However, an applicant paying the annual tax 786  
under division (C) (1) of section 4503.042 of the Revised Code 787  
shall not pay more than eight times the annual taxes due, 788  
regardless of the number of years for which the applicant is 789  
registering. 790

(ii) The additional fee established under division (C) (1) 791  
of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code for each year of 792

registration, provided that not more than eight times the 793  
additional fee due shall be paid, regardless of the number of 794  
years for which the applicant is registering. 795

(iii) One single deputy registrar service fee in the 796  
amount specified in division (D) of section 4503.10 of the 797  
Revised Code or one single bureau of motor vehicles service fee 798  
in the amount specified in division (G) of that section, as 799  
applicable, regardless of the number of years for which the 800  
applicant is registering. 801

(b) In addition, each applicant registering a trailer or 802  
semitrailer under division (A) (2) (a) of this section shall pay 803  
any applicable local motor vehicle license tax levied under 804  
Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code for each year for which the 805  
applicant is registering, provided that not more than eight 806  
times any such annual local taxes shall be due upon 807  
registration. 808

(c) The period of registration for a trailer or 809  
semitrailer registered under division (A) (2) (a) of this section 810  
is exclusive to the trailer or semitrailer for which that 811  
certificate of registration is issued and is not transferable to 812  
any other trailer or semitrailer if the registration is a 813  
permanent registration. 814

(3) Except as provided in division (A) (4) of this section, 815  
the registrar shall adopt rules to permit any person who owns a 816  
motor vehicle to file an application for registration for not 817  
more than five succeeding registration years. At the time of 818  
application, the person shall pay the annual taxes and fees for 819  
each registration year, calculated in accordance with division 820  
(C) of section 4503.11 of the Revised Code. A person who is 821  
registering a vehicle under division (A) (3) of this section 822

shall pay for each year of registration the additional fee 823  
established under division (C) (1) or (3) of section 4503.10 of 824  
the Revised Code, as applicable. The person shall also pay the 825  
deputy registrar service fee or the bureau of motor vehicles 826  
service fee equal to the amount established under section 827  
4503.038 of the Revised Code. 828

(4) Division (A) (3) of this section does not apply to a 829  
person receiving an apportioned license plate under the 830  
international registration plan, or the owner of a commercial 831  
car used solely in intrastate commerce, or the owner of a bus as 832  
defined in section 4513.50 of the Revised Code. 833

(5) A person registering a noncommercial trailer 834  
permanently shall register the trailer under section 4503.107 of 835  
the Revised Code. 836

(B) No person applying for a multi-year registration under 837  
division (A) of this section is entitled to a refund of any 838  
taxes or fees paid. 839

(C) The registrar shall not issue to any applicant who has 840  
been issued a final, nonappealable order under division (D) of 841  
this section a multi-year registration or renewal thereof under 842  
this division or rules adopted under it for any motor vehicle 843  
that is required to be inspected under section 3704.14 of the 844  
Revised Code the district of registration of which, as 845  
determined under section 4503.10 of the Revised Code, is or is 846  
located in the county named in the order. 847

(D) Upon receipt from the director of environmental 848  
protection of a notice issued under rules adopted under section 849  
3704.14 of the Revised Code indicating that an owner of a motor 850  
vehicle that is required to be inspected under that section who 851

obtained a multi-year registration for the vehicle under 852  
division (A) of this section or rules adopted under that 853  
division has not obtained a required inspection certificate or 854  
alternative emissions certificate for the vehicle, the registrar 855  
in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code shall issue 856  
an order to the owner impounding the certificate of registration 857  
and identification license plates for the vehicle. The order 858  
also shall prohibit the owner from obtaining or renewing a 859  
multi-year registration for any vehicle that is required to be 860  
inspected under that section, the district of registration of 861  
which is or is located in the same county as the county named in 862  
the order during the number of years after expiration of the 863  
current multi-year registration that equals the number of years 864  
for which the current multi-year registration was issued. 865

An order issued under this division shall require the 866  
owner to surrender to the registrar the certificate of 867  
registration and license plates for the vehicle named in the 868  
order within five days after its issuance. If the owner fails to 869  
do so within that time, the registrar shall certify that fact to 870  
the county sheriff or local police officials who shall recover 871  
the certificate of registration and license plates for the 872  
vehicle. 873

(E) Upon the occurrence of either of the following 874  
circumstances, the registrar in accordance with Chapter 119. of 875  
the Revised Code shall issue to the owner a modified order 876  
rescinding the provisions of the order issued under division (D) 877  
of this section impounding the certificate of registration and 878  
license plates for the vehicle named in that original order: 879

(1) Receipt from the director of environmental protection 880  
of a subsequent notice under rules adopted under section 3704.14 881

of the Revised Code that the owner has obtained the inspection 882  
certificate or alternative emissions certificate for the vehicle 883  
as required under those rules; 884

(2) Presentation to the registrar by the owner of the 885  
required inspection certificate or alternative emissions 886  
certificate for the vehicle. 887

(F) The owner of a motor vehicle for which the certificate 888  
of registration and license plates have been impounded pursuant 889  
to an order issued under division (D) of this section, upon 890  
issuance of a modified order under division (E) of this section, 891  
may apply to the registrar for their return. A fee of two 892  
dollars and fifty cents shall be charged for the return of the 893  
certificate of registration and license plates for each vehicle 894  
named in the application. 895

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3704.14, 4503.10, 896  
4503.102, and 4503.103 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 897

**Section 3.** This act shall be known as the "E-Check Ease 898  
Act." 899