

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 151**

**Representative Stephens**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 131.44 and to enact section 1  
5501.62 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 2  
755.30 of H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly 3  
to codify it as section 5501.61 of the Revised 4  
Code to allocate a portion of any state revenue 5  
surplus to a program that funds certain road and 6  
bridge projects. 7

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

**Section 1.** That section 131.44 be amended and section 8  
5501.62 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

**Sec. 131.44.** (A) As used in this section: 10

(1) "Surplus revenue" means the excess, if any, of the 11  
total fund balance over the required year-end balance. 12

(2) "Total fund balance" means the sum of the unencumbered 13  
balance in the general revenue fund on the last day of the 14  
preceding fiscal year plus the balance in the budget 15  
stabilization fund. 16

(3) "Required year-end balance" means the sum of the 17  
following: 18

(a) Ten per cent of the general revenue fund revenues for the preceding fiscal year;	19 20
(b) "Ending fund balance," which means one-half of one per cent of general revenue fund revenues for the preceding fiscal year;	21 22 23
(c) "Carryover balance," which means, with respect to a fiscal biennium, the excess, if any, of the estimated general revenue fund appropriation and transfer requirement for the second fiscal year of the biennium over the estimated general revenue fund revenue for that fiscal year;	24 25 26 27 28
(d) "Capital appropriation reserve," which means the amount, if any, of general revenue fund capital appropriations made for the current biennium that the director of budget and management has determined will be encumbered or disbursed.	29 30 31 32
(4) "Estimated general revenue fund appropriation and transfer requirement" means the most recent adjusted appropriations made by the general assembly from the general revenue fund and includes both of the following:	33 34 35 36
(a) Appropriations made and transfers of appropriations from the first fiscal year to the second fiscal year of the biennium in provisions of acts of the general assembly signed by the governor but not yet effective;	37 38 39 40
(b) Transfers of appropriations from the first fiscal year to the second fiscal year of the biennium approved by the controlling board.	41 42 43
(5) "Estimated general revenue fund revenue" means the most recent such estimate available to the director of budget and management.	44 45 46

(6) "Sales tax holiday" has the same meaning as in section 47  
5739.01 of the Revised Code. 48

(B) (1) Not later than the thirty-first day of July each 49  
year, the director of budget and management shall determine the 50  
surplus revenue that existed on the preceding thirtieth day of 51  
June and transfer from the general revenue fund, to the extent 52  
of the unobligated, unencumbered balance on the preceding 53  
thirtieth day of June in excess of one-half of one per cent of 54  
the general revenue fund revenues in the preceding fiscal year, 55  
the following: 56

(a) First, to the budget stabilization fund, any amount 57  
necessary for the balance of the budget stabilization fund to 58  
equal ten per cent of the general revenue fund revenues of the 59  
preceding fiscal year; 60

(b) Then, to the expanded sales tax holiday fund, which is 61  
~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury, an amount equal to the 62  
lesser of the surplus revenue or the amount that would cause the 63  
balance of the fund to equal two hundred fifty million dollars; 64

(c) Then, to the Connect4Ohio fund created in section 65  
5501.62 of the Revised Code, an amount equal to any remaining 66  
surplus revenue after making the transfer described in division 67  
(B) (1) (b) of this section. 68

(2) Not later than the thirty-first day of July of 2024 69  
and each year thereafter, if the balance in the expanded sales 70  
tax holiday fund is sixty million dollars or more, the director 71  
shall certify to the tax commissioner that a sales tax holiday 72  
shall be held in August of the following fiscal year. The 73  
commissioner, in consultation with the director and county 74  
commissioners association of Ohio, shall determine the number of 75

days for which the sales tax holiday will be held, which shall 76  
be at least three days, and which may include additional days if 77  
the commissioner and director determine that the balance in the 78  
expanded sales tax holiday fund is sufficient to reimburse the 79  
general revenue fund, local government fund, public library 80  
fund, and permissive tax distribution fund for the revenue that 81  
would be forgone on four or more of the dates during the period 82  
specified in section 5739.41 of the Revised Code. In making the 83  
determination, the commissioner and director shall take into 84  
account estimated changes in consumer behavior during the time 85  
of and immediately preceding and following the sales tax 86  
holiday. 87

(C) The director of budget and management shall transfer 88  
money in the expanded sales tax holiday fund to the general 89  
revenue fund, local government fund, public library fund, and 90  
permissive tax distribution fund as necessary to offset revenue 91  
reductions resulting from a sales tax holiday held under section 92  
5739.41 of the Revised Code. The amount transferred to each such 93  
fund, and the amounts distributed to counties and transit 94  
authorities from the permissive tax distribution fund, shall be 95  
in the same proportions as the transfer and distribution of 96  
taxes actually collected under sections 5739.02, 5739.021, 97  
5739.023, 5739.026, 5741.02, 5741.021, 5741.022, and 5741.023 of 98  
the Revised Code in August of the fiscal year in which the sales 99  
tax holiday is held. If no sales tax holiday is held under 100  
section 5739.41 of the Revised Code in the current fiscal year, 101  
the director shall not transfer money from the sales tax holiday 102  
fund to the general revenue fund, local government fund, public 103  
library fund, or permissive tax distribution fund. 104

Sec. 5501.62. The Connect4Ohio fund is created in the 105  
state treasury. The fund shall consist of money appropriated to 106

it by the general assembly and money transferred to it by the 107  
director of budget and management in accordance with section 108  
131.44 of the Revised Code. All investment earnings of the fund 109  
shall be credited to the fund. 110

The director of transportation shall administer the fund 111  
and use the money in it to support the Connect4Ohio program 112  
established in section 5501.61 of the Revised Code and for the 113  
purposes of that program. 114

**Section 2.** That existing section 131.44 of the Revised 115  
Code is hereby repealed. 116

**Section 3.** That Section 755.30 of H.B. 33 of the 135th 117  
General Assembly be amended to codify it as section 5501.61 of 118  
the Revised Code to read as follows: 119

**Sec. ~~755.30~~ 5501.61.** (A) As used in this section, "rural 120  
county" means a county that does not contain a municipal 121  
corporation with a population greater than fifty-five thousand 122  
residents according to the most recent federal decennial census. 123

(B) The Connect4Ohio ~~Program~~program is created, and the 124  
~~Department~~department of ~~Transportation~~transportation shall 125  
administer the ~~Program~~program. The purpose of the ~~Program~~program 126  
is to assist in creating seamless transportation 127  
connections throughout all of Ohio and, by doing so, to make it 128  
easier for all Ohio workers to commute from their homes to 129  
employment centers. 130

(C) As part of the ~~Program~~program, the ~~Department~~department 131  
and the Transportation Review Advisory Council 132  
transportation review advisory council (TRAC) shall work 133  
together to provide funding for unfunded projects included on 134  
the "~~Final 2023 - 2026 Major New Construction Program List~~, TRAC 135

~~Tier 1 – Construction Commitments; TRAC Tier 2 – Development~~ 136  
~~Commitments; TRAC Tier 3 – Development Commitments~~"major new 137  
construction program list for the TRAC tiers document that was 138  
is published by the Department on March 29, 2023department 139  
annually. The provision of funding shall be consistent with the 140  
following priorities: 141

(1) Completing existing corridor projects, particularly 142  
corridor projects that benefit two or more connected rural 143  
counties; 144

(2) Eliminating traffic impediments on county, township, 145  
state, and federal highway routes, particularly within rural 146  
counties; 147

(3) Funding such projects at one hundred per cent of the 148  
project cost, when appropriate, particularly for projects that 149  
are located in a rural county or that extend between two or more 150  
connected rural counties; 151

(4) Providing the necessary matching funds to receive TRAC 152  
approval for any construction projects that are related to the 153  
~~Program~~program and its purpose. 154

(D) The ~~Director~~director of ~~Transportation~~transportation 155  
shall establish any procedures and requirements necessary to 156  
administer this section. 157

**Section 4.** That existing Section 755.30 of H.B. 33 of the 158  
135th General Assembly is hereby repealed. 159

**Section 5.** Not later than the tenth day after the 160  
effective date of this section, the Director of Budget and 161  
Management shall transfer all but two hundred fifty million 162  
dollars from the Expanded Sales Tax Holiday Fund created in 163  
section 131.44 of the Revised Code to the Connect4Ohio Fund 164

created in section 5501.62 of the Revised Code.

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