

**As Passed by the House**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 433**

**Representatives Klopfenstein, Fowler Arthur**

**Cosponsors: Representatives John, Newman, Gross, Glassburn, Thomas, D.,  
Daniels, Miller, J., Barhorst, Brennan, Brownlee, Click, Hall, D., Hiner, Mathews, T.,  
Plummer, Rader, Schmidt, Somani, Thomas, C., Troy, White, E., Willis**

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|----------------------------------------------------|---|
| To amend sections 993.01 and 993.04 of the Revised | 1 |
| Code to alter the current amusement ride           | 2 |
| classification structure for purposes of the       | 3 |
| annual inspection and reinspection fees.           | 4 |

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

|                                                                  |   |
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| <b>Section 1.</b> That sections 993.01 and 993.04 of the Revised | 5 |
| Code be amended to read as follows:                              | 6 |

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| <b>Sec. 993.01.</b> As used in this chapter: | 7 |
|----------------------------------------------|---|

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (A) "Amusement ride" means any mechanical, aquatic, or          | 8  |
| inflatable device, or combination of those devices that carries | 9  |
| or conveys passengers on, along, around, over, or through a     | 10 |
| fixed or restricted course or within a defined area for the     | 11 |
| purpose of providing amusement, pleasure, or excitement.        | 12 |
| "Amusement ride" includes carnival rides, bungee jumping        | 13 |
| facilities, and fair rides, but does not include passenger      | 14 |
| tramways as defined in section 4169.01 of the Revised Code,     | 15 |
| manufactured rock climbing walls in climbing facilities         | 16 |
| regulated under Chapter 4175. of the Revised Code, or amusement | 17 |
| rides operated solely at trade shows for a limited period of    | 18 |

time. For purposes of this division, "trade show" means a place 19  
of exhibition not open to the general public where amusement 20  
ride manufacturers display, promote, operate, and sell amusement 21  
rides to prospective purchasers. 22

(B) "Temporary amusement ride" means an amusement ride 23  
that is relocated at least once per year with or without 24  
disassembly. 25

(C) "Permanent amusement ride" means an amusement ride 26  
that is erected to remain a lasting part of the premises. 27

(D) "Owner" means any person who owns or leases and 28  
controls or manages the operation of an amusement ride, and 29  
includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, both profit 30  
and nonprofit, and the state and any of its political 31  
subdivisions and their departments or agencies. 32

(E) "Operation" means the use or operation, or both, of an 33  
amusement ride with riders. 34

(F) "Rider" means any person who sits, stands, or is 35  
otherwise conveyed or carried as a passenger on an amusement 36  
ride, but does not include employees or agents of the owner of 37  
the amusement ride. 38

(G) "Amusement ride operator" means any person causing the 39  
amusement ride to go, stop, or perform its function. 40

(H) "Reassembly" means the installation, erection, or 41  
reconstruction of the main mechanical, safety, electrical, or 42  
electronic components of an amusement ride following 43  
transportation or storage and prior to operation. Replacement of 44  
mechanical, safety, electrical, or electronic components of an 45  
amusement ride for the purpose of repair or maintenance is not 46  
reassembly. 47

(I) "Repair" means to restore an amusement ride to a 48  
condition equal to or better than original design 49  
specifications. 50

(J) "Maintenance" means the preservation and upkeep of an 51  
amusement ride for the purpose of maintaining its designed 52  
operational capability. 53

(K) "Inspection" means a physical examination of an 54  
amusement ride by an inspector for the purpose of approving the 55  
application for a permit. "Inspection" includes a reinspection. 56

(L) "Accident" means an occurrence during the operation of 57  
an amusement ride that results in death or injury requiring 58  
immediate hospital admission. 59

(M) "Serious injury" means an injury that does not require 60  
immediate hospital admission but does require medical treatment, 61  
other than first aid, by a physician. 62

(N) "First aid" means the one-time treatment or subsequent 63  
observation of scratches, cuts not requiring stitches, burns, 64  
splinters, and contusions or a diagnostic procedure, including 65  
examinations and x-rays, that does not ordinarily require 66  
medical treatment even though provided by a physician or other 67  
licensed professional personnel. 68

(O) "Advisory council" means the advisory council on 69  
amusement ride safety created by section 993.02 of the Revised 70  
Code. 71

(P) "Safe operation" means, except as provided in section 72  
993.10 of the Revised Code, the practical application of 73  
maintenance, inspection, and operational processes, as indicated 74  
by the manufacturer, owner, or advisory council, that secures a 75  
rider from threat of physical danger, harm, or loss. 76

(Q) "Private facility" means any facility that is 77  
accessible only to members of the facility and not accessible to 78  
the general public, even upon payment of a fee or charge, and 79  
that requires approval for membership by a membership committee 80  
representing the current members who have a policy requiring 81  
monetary payment to belong to the facility. 82

(R) "Bungee jumping" means a fall or jump from a height by 83  
an individual who is attached to an elastic cord that prevents 84  
the individual from hitting the ground, water, or other solid, 85  
semi-solid, liquid, or elastic surface. 86

(S) "Bungee jumping facility" means a device or structure 87  
utilized for bungee jumping. 88

(T) ~~"Kiddie ride" means an amusement ride designed for use 89  
by children under thirteen years of age who are unaccompanied by 90  
another person. "Kiddie ride" includes a roller coaster that is 91  
not more than forty feet in elevation at any point on the ride. 92~~

~~(U) "Climbing facility" has the same meaning as in section 93  
4175.01 of the Revised Code. 94~~

**Sec. 993.04.** (A) (1) No person shall operate an amusement 95  
ride within the state without a permit issued by the director of 96  
agriculture under division (A) (2) of this section. The owner of 97  
an amusement ride, whether the ride is a temporary amusement 98  
ride or a permanent amusement ride, who desires to operate the 99  
amusement ride within the state shall, prior to the operation of 100  
the amusement ride and annually thereafter, submit to the 101  
department of agriculture an application for a permit, together 102  
with the appropriate permit and inspection fee, on a form to be 103  
furnished by the department. Prior to issuing any permit the 104  
department shall, within thirty days after the date on which it 105

receives the application, inspect each amusement ride described 106  
in the application. The owner of an amusement ride shall have 107  
the amusement ride ready for inspection not later than two hours 108  
after the time that is requested by the person for the 109  
inspection. 110

(2) For each amusement ride found to comply with the rules 111  
adopted by the director under division (B) of this section and 112  
division (B) of section 993.08 of the Revised Code, the director 113  
shall issue an annual permit, provided that evidence of 114  
liability insurance coverage for the amusement ride as required 115  
by section 993.06 of the Revised Code is on file with the 116  
department. 117

(3) The director shall issue with each permit a decal 118  
indicating that the amusement ride has been issued the permit. 119  
The owner of the amusement ride shall affix the decal on the 120  
ride at a location where the decal is easily visible to the 121  
patrons of the ride. A copy of the permit shall be kept on file 122  
at the same address as the location of the amusement ride 123  
identified on the permit, and shall be made available for 124  
inspection, upon reasonable demand, by any person. An owner may 125  
operate an amusement ride prior to obtaining a permit, provided 126  
that the operation is for the purpose of testing the amusement 127  
ride or training amusement ride operators and other employees of 128  
the owner and the amusement ride is not open to the public. 129

(B) (1) The director, in accordance with Chapter 119. of 130  
the Revised Code, shall adopt rules providing for both of the 131  
following: 132

(a) A schedule of fines, with no fine exceeding five 133  
thousand dollars, for violations of this chapter or any rules 134  
adopted under this division; 135

(b) The classification of amusement rides and rules for 136  
the safe operation and inspection of all amusement rides as are 137  
necessary for amusement ride safety and for the protection of 138  
the general public. The classification of amusement rides must 139  
identify those rides that need more comprehensive inspection and 140  
testing in addition to regular state inspections, taking into 141  
account hidden components integral to the safety of the ride. 142

(2) (a) Rules adopted by the director for the safe 143  
operation and inspection of amusement rides shall be reasonable 144  
and shall be based upon generally accepted engineering standards 145  
and practices. The rules shall establish a minimum number of 146  
inspections to be conducted on each ride depending on the size, 147  
complexity, nature of the ride, and the number of days the ride 148  
is in operation during the year for which the applicable permit 149  
is valid. The rules also shall require the minimum number of 150  
inspectors assigned to inspect a ride or rides to be reasonable 151  
and adequate given the number, size, complexity, and nature of 152  
the ride or rides. 153

(b) In adopting rules under this section, the director may 154  
adopt by reference, in whole or in part, the national fire code 155  
or the national electrical code (NEC) prepared by the national 156  
fire protection association or the American national standards 157  
institute (ANSI), or any other principles, tests, or standards 158  
of nationally recognized technical or scientific authorities. 159

(c) In adopting rules under this section, the director 160  
shall adopt, by reference, the following chapters of the 161  
American society for testing and materials (ASTM) international 162  
regarding amusement ride safety standards and any other 163  
equivalent national standard: 164

(i) ASTM F1193-18; 165

|                                                                  |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (ii) ASTM F770-18;                                               | 166 |
| (iii) ASTM F2291-18.                                             | 167 |
| (d) Insofar as is practicable and consistent with this           | 168 |
| chapter, rules adopted under this division shall be consistent   | 169 |
| with the rules of other states.                                  | 170 |
| (3) The department shall cause this chapter and the rules        | 171 |
| adopted in accordance with this division and division (B) of     | 172 |
| section 993.08 of the Revised Code to be published in pamphlet   | 173 |
| form and a copy to be furnished without charge to each owner of  | 174 |
| an amusement ride who holds a current permit or is an applicant  | 175 |
| therefor.                                                        | 176 |
| (C) With respect to an application for a permit for an           | 177 |
| amusement ride, an owner may apply to the director for a waiver  | 178 |
| or modification of any rule adopted under division (B) of this   | 179 |
| section if there are practical difficulties or unnecessary       | 180 |
| hardships for the amusement ride to comply with the rules. Any   | 181 |
| application shall set forth the reasons for the request. The     | 182 |
| director, with the approval of the advisory council on amusement | 183 |
| ride safety, may waive or modify the application of a rule to    | 184 |
| any amusement ride if the public safety is secure. Any           | 185 |
| authorization by the director under this division shall be in    | 186 |
| writing and shall set forth the conditions under which the       | 187 |
| waiver or modification is authorized, and the department shall   | 188 |
| retain separate records of all proceedings under this division.  | 189 |
| (D) (1) The director shall employ and provide for training       | 190 |
| of a chief inspector and additional inspectors and employees as  | 191 |
| may be necessary to administer and enforce this chapter. The     | 192 |
| director may appoint or contract with other persons to perform   | 193 |
| inspections of amusement rides, provided that the persons meet   | 194 |

the qualifications for inspectors established by rules adopted 195  
under division (B) of this section and are not owners, or 196  
employees of owners, of any amusement ride subject to inspection 197  
under this chapter. When employing a new chief inspector or an 198  
additional inspector after November 6, 2019, the director shall 199  
give preference to the following: 200

(a) An individual holding a level one or higher inspector 201  
certification from either the national association of amusement 202  
ride safety officials (NAARSO), the amusement industry 203  
manufacturers and suppliers (AIMS) international, or another 204  
substantially equivalent organization as determined by the 205  
director; and 206

(b) An individual who intends, within one year of being 207  
hired as an inspector, to complete the requirements for issuance 208  
of a level one or higher inspector certification from NAARSO, 209  
AIMS International, or another substantially equivalent 210  
organization as determined by the director. 211

(2) No person shall inspect an amusement ride who, within 212  
six months prior to the date of inspection, was an employee of 213  
the owner of the ride. 214

(3) Before the director contracts with other persons to 215  
inspect amusement rides, the director shall seek the advice of 216  
the advisory council on amusement ride safety on whether to 217  
contract with those persons. The advice shall not be binding 218  
upon the director. After having received the advice of the 219  
council, the director may proceed to contract with inspectors in 220  
accordance with the procedures specified in division (E) (2) of 221  
section 1711.11 of the Revised Code. 222

(4) With the advice and consent of the advisory council on 223



amusement ride safety, the director may employ a special 224  
consultant to conduct an independent investigation of an 225  
amusement ride accident. This consultant need not be in the 226  
civil service of the state, but shall have qualifications to 227  
conduct the investigation acceptable to the council. 228

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (1) of 229  
this section, the department shall charge the following 230  
amusement ride fees: 231  
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|   |                                                        |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A | Permit, <u>non-inflatable ride</u>                     | \$225                                |
| B | <u>Permit, inflatable ride</u>                         | <u>\$100</u>                         |
| C | Annual inspection and reinspection per<br>ride:        |                                      |
| D | Kiddie rides                                           | \$100                                |
| E | <u>Family rides</u>                                    | <u>\$200</u>                         |
| F | <u>Major rides</u>                                     | <u>\$300</u>                         |
| G | <u>Spectacular rides</u>                               | <u>\$400</u>                         |
| H | <u>Family/portable roller coasters</u>                 | <u>\$1,200</u>                       |
| I | <u>Tower rides</u>                                     | <u>\$1,800</u>                       |
| J | <del>Roller coaster</del> <u>Large roller coasters</u> | <del>\$1,200</del><br><u>\$4,000</u> |

|   |                                                                                                                                       |                                  |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| K | <del>Aerial lifts or bungee jumping facilities</del>                                                                                  | <del>\$450</del>                 |
| L | Go karts, per kart                                                                                                                    | \$5                              |
| M | <u>Inflatable rides, three or fewer that are inspected at the same time at the same location and that are owned by the same owner</u> | <u>\$100 per inflatable ride</u> |
| N | <u>Inflatable rides, four to ten that are inspected at the same time at the same location and that are owned by the same owner</u>    | <u>\$75 per inflatable ride</u>  |
| O | <u>Inflatable rides, eleven or more that are inspected at the same time at the same location and that are owned by the same owner</u> | <u>\$50 per inflatable ride</u>  |
| P | <del>Other rides</del>                                                                                                                | <del>\$160</del>                 |
| Q | Midseason operational inspection per ride                                                                                             | \$25                             |
| R | Expedited inspection per ride                                                                                                         | \$100                            |
| S | Failure to cancel scheduled inspection per ride                                                                                       | \$100                            |
| T | Failure to have amusement ride ready for inspection per ride                                                                          | \$100                            |

The go kart inspection fee is in addition to the 233  
inspection fee for the go kart track. 234

~~The director shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter~~ 235

~~119. of the Revised Code establishing an annual fee that is less 236~~  
~~than one hundred five dollars for an inspection and reinspection 237~~  
~~of an inflatable ride. In adopting the rules, the director shall 238~~  
~~ensure that the fee reasonably reflects the costs of inspection 239~~  
~~and reinspection of an inflatable ride. If the director issues a 240~~  
~~permit for an inflatable ride for a time period of less than one 241~~  
~~year, the director shall charge a prorated fee for the permit 242~~  
~~equal to one twelfth of the annual permit fee multiplied by the 243~~  
~~number of full months for which the permit is issued. 244~~

The fees for an expedited inspection, failure to cancel a 245  
scheduled inspection, and failure to have an amusement ride 246  
ready for inspection do not apply to go karts. 247

As used in division (E) (1) of this section, "expedited 248  
inspection" means an inspection of an amusement ride by the 249  
department not later than ten days after the owner of the 250  
amusement ride files an application for a permit under this 251  
section. 252

(2) All fees and fines collected by the department under 253  
this chapter shall be deposited in the state treasury to the 254  
credit of the amusement ride inspection fund, which is hereby 255  
created, and shall be used only for the purpose of administering 256  
and enforcing section 1711.11 of the Revised Code and this 257  
chapter. 258

(3) The owner of an amusement ride shall be required to 259  
pay a reinspection fee only if the reinspection is required by 260  
division (B) (2) of this section or rules adopted under that 261  
division, if the reinspection was conducted at the owner's 262  
request under division (F) of this section, if the reinspection 263  
is required by division (F) of this section because of an 264  
accident, or if the reinspection is required by division (F) of 265

section 993.07 of the Revised Code. If a reinspection is 266  
conducted at the request of the chief officer of a fair, 267  
festival, or event where the ride is operating, the reinspection 268  
fee shall be charged to the fair, festival, or event. 269

(4) The rules adopted under division (B) of this section 270  
shall define ~~"roller coaster," "aerial lifts," "inflatable ride,"~~ 271  
~~"go karts," and "other rides"~~ "kiddie ride," "family ride," 272  
"major ride," "spectacular ride," "family/portable roller 273  
coaster," "tower ride," and "large roller coaster" for purposes 274  
of determining the fees under division (E) of this section. ~~The~~ 275  
~~rules shall define "other rides" to include go kart tracks.~~ 276

(F) A reinspection of an amusement ride shall take place 277  
if an accident occurs, if the owner of the ride or the chief 278  
officer of the fair, festival, or event where the ride is 279  
operating requests a reinspection, if the chief inspector 280  
determines reinspection is necessary in accordance with section 281  
993.042 of the Revised Code, or if the reinspection is required 282  
by division (F) of section 993.07 of the Revised Code. 283

(G) As a supplement to its annual inspection of a 284  
temporary amusement ride, the department may inspect the ride 285  
during each scheduled event, as listed in the schedule of events 286  
provided to the department by the owner pursuant to division (C) 287  
of section 993.07 of the Revised Code, at which the ride is 288  
operated in this state. These supplemental inspections are in 289  
addition to any other inspection or reinspection of the ride as 290  
may be required under this chapter or rules adopted under it, 291  
and the owner of the temporary amusement ride is not required to 292  
pay an inspection or reinspection fee for this supplemental 293  
inspection unless the supplemental inspection is being conducted 294  
pursuant to division (B) (2) of this section or rules adopted 295

under that division. Nothing in this division shall be construed 296  
to prohibit the owner of a temporary amusement ride having a 297  
valid permit to operate in this state from operating the ride at 298  
a scheduled event before the department conducts a supplemental 299  
inspection. 300

(H) The department may annually conduct a midseason 301  
operational inspection of every amusement ride upon which it 302  
conducts an annual inspection pursuant to division (A) of this 303  
section. The midseason operational inspection is in addition to 304  
any other inspection or reinspection of the amusement ride as 305  
may be required pursuant to this chapter. The owner of an 306  
amusement ride shall submit to the department, at the time 307  
determined by the department, the midseason operational 308  
inspection fee specified in division (E) of this section. The 309  
director, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 310  
shall adopt rules specifying the time period during which the 311  
department will conduct midseason operational inspections. 312

**Section 2.** That existing sections 993.01 and 993.04 of the 313  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 314