

As Passed by the House

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Am. H. B. No. 434

Representatives Willis, Lampton

Cosponsors: Representatives Abdullahi, Brennan, Brewer, Claggett, Daniels, Deeter, Dovilla, Ghanbari, Glassburn, Grim, Gross, Hall, D., Hall, T., Hiner, Holmes, Hoops, Jarrells, John, King, Kishman, Klopfenstein, Lorenz, Mathews, A., Mathews, T., Miller, J., Mohamed, Newman, Peterson, Robb Blasdel, Roemer, Rogers, Schmidt, Stephens, Thomas, C., Tims, Upchurch, White, A., White, E., Williams, Young

1 To amend section 4507.21 of the Revised Code and to
2 amend Section 755.20 of H.B. 96 of the 136th
3 General Assembly to exempt certain military-
4 related limited term driver's license applicants
5 from the driver's education requirements, to
6 expand the Drones for First Responders Program,
7 and to declare an emergency.

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

8 **Section 1.** That section 4507.21 of the Revised Code be
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **Sec. 4507.21.** (A) Except as provided in section 4507.061
11 of the Revised Code, each applicant for a driver's license shall
12 file an application in the office of the registrar of motor
13 vehicles or of a deputy registrar.

14 (B) (1) Except as provided in division (B) (4) of this
15 section, each person under twenty-one years of age applying for
16 a driver's license issued in this state and each person twenty-

one years of age or older applying for an initial limited term 17
license in this state shall present satisfactory evidence of 18
having successfully completed one of the following: 19

(a) A driver training course approved by the director of 20
public safety. 21

(b) A driver training course comparable to a driver 22
training course described in division (B)(1)(a) of this section 23
and administered by a branch of the armed forces of the United 24
States and completed by the applicant while residing outside 25
this state for the purpose of being with or near any person 26
serving in the armed forces of the United States. 27

(2) Each person under twenty-one years of age applying for 28
a driver's license also shall present, on a form prescribed by 29
the registrar, an affidavit signed by an eligible adult 30
attesting that the person has acquired at least fifty hours of 31
actual driving experience, with at least ten of those hours 32
being at night. 33

(3) Except as provided in division (B)(4) of this section, 34
each person twenty-one years of age or older applying for an 35
initial limited term license in this state also shall present, 36
on a form prescribed by the registrar, an affidavit signed by an 37
adult who holds a current valid driver's or commercial driver's 38
license issued by this state that the applicant has acquired at 39
least fifty hours of actual driving experience, with at least 40
ten of those hours being at night, accompanied by the signing 41
adult. 42

(4) ~~Both~~ All of the following individuals are exempt from 43
the requirements specified in divisions (B)(1) and (3) of this 44
section: 45

(a) A person who receives a waiver of the examination by 46
the registrar in accordance with section 4507.10 of the Revised 47
Code; 48

(b) An initial limited term license applicant twenty-one 49
years of age or older who is from a country with which the 50
registrar has a reciprocal arrangement in accordance with 51
section 4507.101 of the Revised Code; 52

(c) A person who possesses both a valid, unexpired visa 53
issued by the United States department of state and a valid, 54
unexpired foreign driver's license and who presents a form, 55
prescribed by the registrar, attesting to the person's 56
relationship with either the United States military, the United 57
States department of defense, or any of the subordinate agencies 58
to the department of defense. 59

(C) (1) An applicant for an initial driver's license shall 60
present satisfactory evidence of successful completion of the 61
abbreviated driver training course for adults, approved by the 62
director of public safety under section 4508.02 of the Revised 63
Code, if all of the following apply: 64

(a) The applicant is twenty-one years of age or older. 65

(b) The applicant failed the road or maneuverability test 66
required under division (A) (2) of section 4507.11 of the Revised 67
Code. 68

(c) In the twelve months immediately preceding the date of 69
application, the applicant has not successfully completed a 70
driver training course. 71

(2) An applicant shall present satisfactory evidence as 72
required under division (C) (1) of this section prior to 73
attempting the test a second or subsequent time. 74

(D) If the registrar or deputy registrar determines that 75
the applicant is entitled to the driver's license, it shall be 76
issued. If the application shows that the applicant's license 77
has been previously canceled or suspended, the deputy registrar 78
shall forward the application to the registrar, who shall 79
determine whether the license shall be granted. 80

(E) An applicant shall file an application under this 81
section in duplicate, and the deputy registrar issuing the 82
license shall immediately forward to the office of the registrar 83
the original copy of the application, together with the 84
duplicate copy of any certificate of completion if issued for 85
purposes of division (B) of this section. The registrar shall 86
prescribe rules as to the manner in which the deputy registrar 87
files and maintains the applications and other records. The 88
registrar shall file every application for a driver's or 89
commercial driver's license and index them by name and number, 90
and shall maintain a suitable record of all licenses issued, all 91
convictions and bond forfeitures, all applications for licenses 92
denied, and all licenses that have been suspended or canceled. 93

(F) For purposes of section 2313.06 of the Revised Code, 94
the registrar shall maintain accurate and current lists of the 95
residents of each county who are eighteen years of age or older, 96
have been issued, on and after January 1, 1984, driver's or 97
commercial driver's licenses that are valid and current, and 98
would be electors if they were registered to vote, regardless of 99
whether they actually are registered to vote. The lists shall 100
contain the names, addresses, dates of birth, duration of 101
residence in this state, citizenship status, and social security 102
numbers, if the numbers are available, of the licensees, and may 103
contain any other information that the registrar considers 104
suitable. 105

(G) Each person under eighteen years of age applying for a
motorcycle operator's endorsement or a restricted license
enabling the applicant to operate a motorcycle shall present
satisfactory evidence of having completed the courses of
instruction in the motorcycle safety and education program
described in section 4508.08 of the Revised Code or a comparable
course of instruction administered by a branch of the armed
forces of the United States and completed by the applicant while
residing outside this state for the purpose of being with or
near any person serving in the armed forces of the United
States. If the registrar or deputy registrar then determines
that the applicant is entitled to the endorsement or restricted
license, it shall be issued.

(H) No person shall knowingly make a false statement in an
affidavit presented in accordance with division (B) (2) of this
section.

(I) As used in this section, "eligible adult" means any of
the following persons:

(1) A parent, guardian, or custodian of the applicant;

(2) A person over the age of twenty-one who acts in loco
parentis of the applicant and who maintains proof of financial
responsibility with respect to the operation of a motor vehicle
owned by the applicant or with respect to the applicant's
operation of any motor vehicle.

(J) Whoever violates division (H) of this section is
guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined one hundred
dollars.

Section 2. That existing section 4507.21 of the Revised
Code is hereby repealed.

Section 3. That Section 755.20 of H.B. 96 of the 136th 135
General Assembly be amended to read as follows: 136

Sec. 755.20. (A) As used in this section: 137

(1) "First responder" means a law enforcement agency, fire 138
department, or emergency medical services organization. 139

(2) "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" has the same meaning 140
as in section 4561.50 of the Revised Code. 141

(B) The Director of Transportation shall establish a 142
Drones for First Responders pilot program to be administered by 143
the Department of Transportation. 144

(C) The program shall be designed to focus on the 145
following goals: 146

(1) Acquiring unmanned aerial vehicle system assets for 147
first responders within municipal corporations, counties, and 148
townships; 149

(2) Providing training on the operation of unmanned aerial 150
vehicle systems to the operators of those systems; 151

(3) Obtaining approval from the Federal Aviation 152
Administration for beyond visual line of sight operations for 153
purposes of the pilot program and the operation of unmanned 154
aerial vehicle systems within the program; 155

(4) Integrating existing Ohio unmanned aerial vehicle 156
system infrastructure for purposes of conducting beyond visual 157
line of sight operations within the program; 158

(5) Collecting metrics for cost-benefit analyses related 159
to advanced unmanned aerial vehicle system operations; 160

(6) Developing a comprehensive approach for community 161

acceptance and integration of unmanned aerial vehicle system 162
operations; 163

(7) Standardizing an approval process with the Federal 164
Aviation Administration for unmanned aerial vehicle system 165
operators across the state. 166

(D) (1) The Director shall establish a process to award 167
money available under the program to the legislative authority 168
of municipal corporations, boards of county commissioners, and 169
boards of township trustees that are willing to participate in 170
the program and meet any guidelines established by the Director 171
for meeting the program's goals. The money awarded shall be 172
allocated towards the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicle 173
systems for first responders within the municipal corporations, 174
counties, and townships for training support, for assisting in 175
navigating federal processes and approvals, and for supporting 176
the integration of statewide operations. 177

(2) Any unmanned aerial vehicle system purchased through 178
the program shall comply with the federal laws and regulations 179
for such systems, including those in the national security 180
interests of the United States. As such, no system, including 181
any components, services, or maintenance of that system, shall 182
originate from a country or other entity that has been deemed a 183
national security risk by the United States Secretary of State 184
in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 2780 and 50 U.S.C. 4813. 185
Additionally, any system shall comply with the "Support Anti- 186
terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002," 6 187
U.S.C. 441, et seq., and any applicable conditions of national 188
defense spending. 189

(E) The Director shall establish any procedures and 190
requirements necessary to administer this section, including 191

award processes, and any conditions for the expenditure of 192
funding awarded under the program. 193

(F) (1) Not later than two years after ~~the effective date~~ 194
~~of this section~~ September 30, 2025, the Director shall submit a 195
report regarding the program to the Governor, the Speaker of the 196
House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the 197
Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate, and 198
the chairs of any committee of the House of Representatives and 199
Senate related to transportation issues. 200

(2) The report shall detail how funds were expended 201
through the program, the success of the program in meeting its 202
goals, the cost-benefit analysis created through the program, 203
and any recommendations for additional integration of unmanned 204
aerial vehicle system operations by first responders. 205

Section 4. That existing Section 755.20 of H.B. 96 of the 206
136th General Assembly is hereby repealed. 207

Section 5. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 208
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 209
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that 210
certain foreign government officials and contractors associated 211
with the United States military and Department of Defense are 212
otherwise unable to drive in Ohio without undertaking the 213
complete driver's education courses and practice hours. 214
Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect. 215