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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 472
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cockley and Salvo

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SUMMARY

Personal documents

- Eliminates fees for copies of birth certificates, certified records of a name change, certified abstracts of marriage, or certificates of divorce, annulment, or dissolution of marriage issued to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Eliminates fees for identification cards issued to individuals under the age of 17 experiencing homelessness.
- Eliminates fees for duplicate or reprint identification cards for individuals 17 or older who are experiencing homelessness.
- Limits the number of fee waivers for individuals experiencing homelessness to one per year of each type of document.
- Requires information about the waiver of fees for individuals experiencing homelessness to be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health every year.
- Requires the Director of Health to submit an annual report to the General Assembly with statewide information regarding the waiver of fees for individuals experiencing homelessness in the previous year.

Document storage

- Permits a homeless shelter or nonprofit agency that provides case management services to people experiencing homelessness to store a physical copy of their client's Social Security cards or birth certificates, with client consent.
- Requires the shelter or agency to destroy, delete, or return the document upon the client's request.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Personal documents

The bill requires the fees for certain personal documents to be waived for individuals experiencing homelessness. For the fee to be waived, one of the following must verify that the individual is experiencing homelessness: (1) a director or person designated by the director of a government or nonprofit agency that receives funding to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness, (2) a school social worker, school counselor, or local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, (3) a director or person designated by a director of either a federal TRIO program or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP), or (4) a financial aid administrator for an institution of higher education. The fee for each type of document may be waived only once in a 12-month period.¹

Vital records fees

H.B. 472 requires the Director of Health to waive all fees for a certified copy of a birth record (full birth record), a certification of birth (condensed birth record), or replacement of a birth record if the individual requesting the document is experiencing homelessness.²

A probate judge must waive all fees for a certified abstract of marriage if the individual requesting the document is experiencing homelessness.³

The clerk of a court of common pleas must waive all fees for a certificate of divorce, annulment, or dissolution of marriage if the individual requesting the certificate is experiencing homelessness.⁴

Record of name change fees

Similarly, the bill requires the clerk of a court of common pleas to waive fees for a certified record of a name change if the individual requesting the record is experiencing homelessness.⁵

Identification card fees

Continuing law specifies that any person who is 17 or older may receive an identification card, a temporary identification card (for use when a drivers' license is suspended), or a replacement identification card without paying a fee.⁶ The bill additionally prohibits the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar from charging a fee for issuing an identification card to an

¹ R.C. 2101.166(B), 2303.202(B), 3705.243(B), and 4507.50(F)(2).

² R.C. 3705.243, with conforming changes in R.C. 3109.14, 3705.24, and 3705.242.

³ R.C. 2101.166(B).

⁴ R.C. 2303.202(B).

⁵ R.C. 2303.202(B).

⁶ R.C. 4507.50(D) and 4507.52(B)(6).

individual under 17 experiencing homelessness, or for issuing a duplicate or reprint identification card to an individual of any age experiencing homelessness.⁷

Current law requires applications for identification cards for minors to be signed by a parent, guardian, or correctional department. The bill also permits the person verifying that a minor is homeless for the purpose of waiving fees to sign the application.⁸

Ohio law distinguishes between duplicate, reprint, and replacement identification cards. A duplicate identification card is issued if a card is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, and involves filing an application and presenting evidence to the registrar or deputy registrar. A reprint is also issued if a card is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, but it must be applied for online. A replacement identification card is issued when the cardholder's name or citizenship status needs to be updated.⁹ Although current law specifies that of these three only a replacement identification card is free for someone 17 or older, in practice it appears that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) does not issue replacement identification cards that are distinct from duplicate/reprint cards, and does not currently charge a fee for a duplicate or reprint identification card for this age group.¹⁰

Reporting

The bill requires every entity that waives fees for documents obtained by individuals experiencing homelessness to submit an annual report to the Director of Health by January 31 of each year, detailing the number of individuals for whom fees were waived in the preceding year.¹¹ The Director of Health must compile this information with any records of fees waived by the Director for the issuance of birth certificates and submit an annual report to the General Assembly. This report must specify the number of individuals experiencing homelessness for whom fees were waived, delineated by the type of document. The report must also be publicly available on the Department of Health's website.¹²

Document storage

The bill permits a homeless shelter or nonprofit agency, excluding any governmental agency, to store a physical or digital copy of a Social Security card, certification of birth, or certified copy of a birth record for an individual experiencing homelessness who consents to the document storage. A homeless shelter or nonprofit agency that stores these documents must retain possession of the physical or digital copies and establish a mechanism to protect the copies, including by ensuring that there is a physical or virtual lock protecting access to the copies

⁷ R.C. 4507.50(E)(3) and 4507.52(B)(5)(d).

⁸ R.C. 4507.51(A).

⁹ R.C. 4507.52(B)(1) to (3); R.C. 4507.233 and 4507.40, not in the bill.

¹⁰ Ohio BMV, "[Driver License & Identification Card Related Fees](#)," updated May 12, 2023, available by searching "fees" on the BMV website: bmv.ohio.gov.

¹¹ R.C. 2101.166(C), 2303.202(C), 3705.243(C), and 4507.50(H).

¹² R.C. 3705.50.

and that the copies are only accessible to appropriate staff. The shelter or agency must permit an individual experiencing homelessness to access the documents in a timely manner and the documents must be destroyed, deleted, or returned upon request of that individual.¹³

Homelessness definition

The bill defines “individual experiencing homelessness” as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or who has as a primary nighttime residence a temporary shelter or place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes (1) individuals who do not have access to, or who are in imminent danger of losing access to, normal accommodations as a result of violence or a threat of violence from a cohabitant and (2) individuals who have been released from a carceral facility, a mental health or developmental disability facility, a residential addiction treatment program, or a hospital, for whom no residence is identified and who lacks the resources necessary to obtain housing.¹⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-29-25
Reported, H. Children & Human Services	11-19-25
Passed House (91-1)	02-18-26

ANHB0472PH-136/sb

¹³ R.C. 9.011.

¹⁴ R.C. 3705.243(A).