OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

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H.B. 630
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Dean

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SUMMARY

- Exempts a farm equipment permit holder from any requirement to obtain a law enforcement escort if certain conditions are met.
- Requires the Director of Transportation to issue an annual permit authorizing a person to operate farm machinery or farm equipment on certain limited access highways or freeways.
- Authorizes a local authority to issue a similar permit if the limited access highway or freeway is under the local authority's jurisdiction.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Police escorts for farm machinery or farm equipment

The bill prohibits the Director of Transportation from requiring a farm equipment permit holder to obtain a law enforcement escort when hauling farm machinery or farm equipment if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The permit holder operates the farm machinery or farm equipment on a state route other than an interstate highway; and
2. The permit holder moves the farm machinery or farm equipment less than ten miles.[1]

Under current law, a person must obtain a farm equipment permit to haul farm machinery and farm equipment. The farm equipment permit allows unlimited movements of farm machinery and equipment to and from a farm or between two farm implement dealers for a period up to a year. The farm equipment must be part of an over-dimension vehicle whose

[1] R.C. 4513.34(B)(5).

maximum weight, length, and height do not exceed the statutory limitations and whose width is 14 feet or less.[2]

Current law allows the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), at the discretion of the Director, to require a police escort for certain overweight or over-dimension vehicles, including farm machinery or farm equipment.[3] Accordingly, ODOT requires such an escort if, in ODOT's opinion, any movement may result in delay or hazard to the traveling public or damage to the roads.[4]

Farm machinery on freeways and limited access highways

The bill requires the Director to issue an annual permit authorizing a person to operate farm machinery or farm equipment on any limited access highway or freeway under ODOT's jurisdiction, other than an interstate highway. Under current law, such operation is prohibited unless directed by a police officer.[5] To obtain a permit, an applicant must submit both of the following:

- An application in the form and manner prescribed by the Director; and
- A permit fee, not to exceed $100, imposed and collected when the permit is issued.[6]

The bill authorizes the Director, in consultation with the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol, to limit or prescribe operation conditions, including route restrictions, on a permit. Additionally, it prohibits a person from knowingly violating any of the terms of a permit unless ordered to do so by a law enforcement officer or an authorized ODOT agent. A permit holder must ensure that the permit is carried in the farm machinery or farm equipment to which it refers and that the permit is open to inspection by any law enforcement officer or authorized ODOT agent.[7]

The bill also allows a local authority to issue a similar permit authorizing a person to operate or move farm machinery or farm equipment on a limited access highway or freeway under its jurisdiction, other than an interstate highway. The local authority may establish any fee, limitations, conditions, or route restrictions it considers necessary for that permit.[8]

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[2] Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 5501:2-1-01(J).

[3] O.A.C. 5501:2-1-04(L).

[4] See Escort Requirements.

[5] R.C. 4511.051(A) and 4513.341(A).

[6] R.C. 4513.341(B)

[7] R.C. 4513.341(C), (D), and (E).

[8] R.C. 4513.341(F).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	12-17-25
Reported, H. Public Safety	06-09-26
Passed House (96-0)	06-09-26

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