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136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 653

To amend sections 4521.01, 4521.02, 4521.06, and 1
4521.08 and to enact section 4521.11 of the 2
Revised Code to modify the civil parking ticket 3
laws. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 4521.01, 4521.02, 4521.06, and 5
4521.08 be amended and section 4521.11 of the Revised Code be 6
enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 4521.01. As used in this chapter: 8

(A) "Parking infraction" means a violation of any 9
ordinance, resolution, or regulation enacted by a local 10
authority that regulates the standing or parking of vehicles and 11
that is authorized pursuant to section 505.17 or 4511.07 of the 12
Revised Code, or a violation of any ordinance, resolution, or 13
regulation enacted by a local authority as authorized by this 14
chapter, if the local authority in either of these cases also 15
has enacted an ordinance, resolution, or regulation of the type 16
described in division (A) of section 4521.02 of the Revised Code 17
in relation to the particular regulatory ordinance, resolution, 18
or regulation. 19



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(B) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 4511.01 20
of the Revised Code. 21

(C) "Court" means a municipal court, county court, 22
juvenile court, or mayor's court, unless specifically identified 23
as one of these courts, in which case it means the specifically 24
identified court. 25

(D) "Local authority" means every county, municipal 26
corporation, township, or other local board or body having 27
authority to adopt police regulations pursuant to the 28
constitution and laws of this state. 29

(E) "Accessible parking space" means a motor vehicle 30
parking location that is reserved for the exclusive standing or 31
parking of a vehicle that is operated by or on behalf of a 32
person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to 33
walk and displays a placard or license plates issued under 34
section 4503.44 of the Revised Code. 35

(F) "Person with a disability that limits or impairs the 36
ability to walk" has the same meaning as in section 4503.44 of 37
the Revised Code. 38

(G) "Collection agency" has the same meaning as in section 39
1319.12 of the Revised Code. 40

Sec. 4521.02. ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) A local authority that enacts any 41
ordinance, resolution, or regulation that regulates the standing 42
or parking of vehicles and that is authorized pursuant to 43
section 505.17 or 4511.07 of the Revised Code also by ordinance, 44
resolution, or regulation may specify that a violation of the 45
regulatory ordinance, resolution, or regulation shall not be 46
considered a criminal offense for any purpose, that a person who 47
commits the violation shall not be arrested as a result of the 48

commission of the violation, and that the violation shall be 49
handled pursuant to this chapter. If such a specification is 50
made, the local authority also by ordinance, resolution, or 51
regulation shall adopt a fine for a violation of the regulatory 52
ordinance, resolution, or regulation and prescribe an additional 53
penalty or penalties for failure to answer any charges of the 54
violation in a timely manner. ~~In~~ 55

(2) In no case shall any fine adopted or additional 56
penalty prescribed pursuant to ~~this~~ division (A) of this section 57
exceed the fine established by the municipal or county court 58
having territorial jurisdiction over the entire or a majority of 59
the political subdivision of the local authority, in its 60
schedule of fines established pursuant to Traffic Rule 13(C), 61
for a substantively comparable violation. Except as otherwise 62
provided in ~~this~~ division (A) of this section, in no case shall 63
any fine adopted or additional penalty prescribed pursuant to 64
~~this~~ division (A) of this section exceed one hundred dollars, 65
plus costs and other administrative charges, per violation. 66

(3) If a local authority chooses to adopt a specific fine 67
for a violation of an ordinance, resolution, or regulation that 68
regulates the standing or parking of a vehicle in an accessible 69
parking space, the fine the local authority establishes for such 70
offense shall be an amount not less than two hundred fifty 71
dollars but not more than five hundred dollars. 72

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this division, a local 73
authority shall impose late-payment penalties in the following 74
manner: 75

(a) An original late-payment penalty of not more than 76
fifteen dollars, which shall not be imposed earlier than twenty- 77
one days after the issuance of the parking ticket; 78

(b) A secondary late-payment penalty of not more than 79
twenty dollars, which shall not be imposed earlier than forty- 80
two days after the issuance of the parking ticket if the parking 81
ticket remains unpaid at that time. 82

Any late-payment penalties shall not exceed thirty-five 83
dollars or the amount of the initial parking infraction, 84
whichever amount is lower, for a single parking infraction. 85

(B) A local authority that enacts an ordinance, 86
resolution, or regulation pursuant to division (A) of this 87
section also may enact an ordinance, resolution, or regulation 88
that provides for the impoundment or immobilization of vehicles 89
found standing or parked in violation of the regulatory 90
ordinance, resolution, or regulation and the release of the 91
vehicles to their owners. In no case shall an ordinance, 92
resolution, or regulation require the owner of the vehicle to 93
post bond or deposit cash in excess of one thousand dollars in 94
order to obtain release of the vehicle. 95

(C) A local authority that enacts any ordinance, 96
resolution, or regulation pursuant to division (A) of this 97
section also shall enact an ordinance, resolution, or regulation 98
that specifies the time within which a person who is issued a 99
parking ticket must answer in relation to the parking infraction 100
charged in the ticket. In no case shall an ordinance, 101
resolution, or regulation specify a time that is less than 102
twenty-one days from the date of issuance within which a person 103
who is issued a parking ticket must answer in relation to the 104
parking infraction without incurring any late-payment penalties. 105

(D) (1) A local authority that enacts any ordinance, 106
resolution, or regulation pursuant to division (A) of this 107
section may impose only one administrative, processing, or 108

collection fee. If the local authority imposes such a fee, that 109
fee shall not exceed ten dollars. 110

(2) If the administrative, processing, or collection fee 111
is imposed on an unpaid parking ticket, it shall be imposed 112
prior to the ticket being referred for collection under either 113
section 4521.08 or 4521.11 of the Revised Code. 114

(E) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require 115
a local authority to impose a late-payment penalty or 116
administrative, processing, or collection fee. A local authority 117
may choose to not impose a penalty or fee or may choose to 118
impose a penalty or fee that is lower than the penalties or fees 119
provided for in this section. However, any penalties or fees 120
that are imposed shall not exceed the maximum amounts 121
established by this section. 122

Sec. 4521.06. (A) A person who is personally or 123
constructively served with a parking ticket charging the 124
commission of a parking infraction may answer the charge by 125
personal appearance before the parking violations bureau, joint 126
parking violations bureau, traffic violations bureau, or 127
juvenile court, whichever is applicable, or by mail. A local 128
authority may, by ordinance, resolution, or regulation, also 129
authorize the answer to a charge of a parking infraction that is 130
a violation of any of its ordinances, resolutions, or 131
regulations to be made by telephone, in which case the parking 132
ticket adopted by the local authority shall indicate such fact. 133
An answer shall be made within the time specified by the local 134
authority and indicated on the ticket, and shall be in one of 135
the following forms: 136

(1) An admission that the person committed the parking 137
infraction, by payment of any fine arising out of the parking 138

infraction; 139

(2) An admission that the person committed the parking 140
infraction, with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding 141
the parking infraction; 142

(3) A denial that the person committed the parking 143
infraction and, within sixteen days after the date of issuance 144
of the parking ticket, a request for a hearing relative to the 145
infraction. If the person desires the presence, at the hearing, 146
of the law enforcement officer who issued the parking ticket, 147
the person must request ~~his~~the officer's presence in ~~his~~the 148
person's answer. If the person requests a hearing in accordance 149
with this division, a local authority shall not impose any late- 150
payment penalty for the parking ticket that is the subject of 151
the requested hearing. 152

(B) (1) A person who admits ~~that he~~having committed a 153
parking infraction shall, and a person who admits ~~that he~~having 154
committed a parking infraction with explanation may, when ~~he~~ 155
~~makes his answer~~answering, pay the fine arising out of the 156
infraction admitted to the violations clerk of the bureau, or to 157
the clerk of the juvenile court, to which the answer is made. 158

(2) A person who admits ~~that he~~having committed a parking 159
infraction with explanation shall submit evidence to the bureau 160
or juvenile court to which the answer is made that explains the 161
circumstances surrounding the parking infraction. The evidence 162
may be submitted in person or, to avoid the necessity of 163
personal appearance, may be sent as affidavits and other 164
documentary evidence, by mail. A bureau or juvenile court that 165
receives an answer admitting that a person committed a parking 166
infraction with explanation shall promptly determine whether the 167
explanation mitigates the fact that the person committed the 168

parking infraction and notify the person, in writing, of its 169
determination. 170

If the bureau or juvenile court determines that the 171
explanation mitigates the fact that the person committed the 172
parking infraction, the bureau or juvenile court shall eliminate 173
or reduce the amount of the fine arising out of the parking 174
infraction. If the fine is eliminated or reduced and the person 175
has previously paid the fine, the amount paid in excess of the 176
revised fine shall be returned to the person; if the fine is 177
eliminated or reduced and the person has not previously paid the 178
fine, the person shall pay only the amount of the revised fine. 179
If the bureau or juvenile court determines that the explanation 180
does not mitigate the fact that the person committed the parking 181
infraction, the person owes the entire amount of the fine 182
arising out of the parking infraction, and if the person has not 183
previously paid the fine, the person shall pay the entire amount 184
of the fine. If a person admits ~~that he~~having committed a 185
parking infraction with explanation and the person fails to pay 186
the amount of the fine due within ten days after receiving 187
notice of the bureau's or juvenile court's determination, unless 188
the amount due has previously been paid, the bureau's or 189
juvenile court's determination and the amount of the fine due 190
shall be considered a judgment and shall be treated as if it 191
were a judgment rendered subsequent to a hearing held pursuant 192
to division (B) of section 4521.08 of the Revised Code. 193

(3) A person who denies ~~that he~~having committed a parking 194
infraction shall be granted a hearing concerning the infraction. 195
The bureau or juvenile court shall set a date for the hearing 196
and notify the person, in writing, of the date, time, and place 197
of the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by a hearing 198
examiner of the parking violations bureau or joint parking 199

violations bureau, or a hearing examiner or referee of the 200
traffic violations bureau, or a referee of the juvenile court, 201
whichever is applicable, in accordance with section 4521.08 of 202
the Revised Code. 203

(C) If a person who is personally or constructively served 204
with a parking ticket charging the commission of a parking 205
infraction fails to timely answer the charge, as provided in 206
division (A) of this section, the parking violations bureau, 207
joint parking violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, 208
or the juvenile court, whichever is applicable, shall issue the 209
proper notifications of infraction pursuant to section 4521.07 210
of the Revised Code, and proceed according to that section. 211
Failure to timely answer a charge may result in the imposition 212
of the additional penalties prescribed by ordinance, resolution, 213
or regulation of the local authority enacted pursuant to section 214
4521.02 of the Revised Code or by the court. 215

(D) The issuance of a parking ticket, the filing of or 216
failure to file an answer by a person personally or 217
constructively served with the ticket, the substance of an 218
answer, the payment of any fine, and any other relevant 219
information shall be entered in the records of the particular 220
bureau or juvenile court. 221

Sec. 4521.08. (A) If a person who is personally or 222
constructively served with a parking ticket charging the 223
commission of a parking infraction or who receives a 224
notification of infraction, in ~~his~~the person's answer to the 225
charge denies ~~that he~~having committed the infraction, the 226
parking violations bureau, joint parking violations bureau, or 227
traffic violations bureau, or the juvenile court, that has 228
jurisdiction shall conduct a hearing to determine if the person 229

committed the parking infraction. Each hearing shall be 230
conducted by a hearing examiner of the parking violations bureau 231
or joint parking violations bureau, a hearing examiner or 232
referee of the traffic violations bureau, or a referee of the 233
juvenile court. Each hearing shall be conducted in such manner 234
as the hearing examiner or referee considers appropriate. Rules 235
regarding the admissibility of evidence shall not be strictly 236
applied in the hearing, but all testimony shall be under oath. 237

At the hearing, the local authority whose ordinance, 238
resolution, or regulation allegedly was violated and resulted in 239
the charge has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the 240
evidence, that the person for whom the hearing is being 241
conducted committed the parking infraction. If the person, in 242
~~his~~the person's answer, denied ~~that he~~having committed the 243
parking infraction and requested the presence at the hearing of 244
the law enforcement officer who issued the parking ticket, the 245
officer shall be required to attend the hearing unless the 246
hearing examiner or referee determines that the officer's 247
presence is not required. If the officer's presence at the 248
hearing has been requested and the officer is unable to attend 249
the hearing on the day and at the time scheduled, the hearing 250
examiner or referee may grant a reasonable continuance. The 251
person for whom the hearing is being conducted may present any 252
relevant evidence and testimony at the hearing. The person does 253
not have to attend the hearing if ~~he~~the person submits 254
documentary evidence to the hearing examiner or referee prior to 255
the day of the hearing. 256

The local authority shall submit the original parking 257
ticket that was personally or constructively served on the 258
person or a true copy of that ticket, and information from the 259
bureau of motor vehicles that identifies the owner of the 260

vehicle. The ticket and the information in proper form is prima- 261
facie evidence that the registered owner of the vehicle was the 262
person who committed the parking infraction. The local authority 263
may present additional evidence and testimony at the hearing. 264
The local authority does not have to be represented at the 265
hearing by an attorney. 266

(B) (1) If a person for whom a hearing is to be conducted 267
under division (A) of this section appears at the scheduled 268
hearing or submits evidence in accordance with that division, 269
the hearing examiner or referee shall consider all evidence and 270
testimony presented and shall determine whether the local 271
authority has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, 272
that the person committed the parking infraction. If the hearing 273
examiner or referee determines that the person committed the 274
infraction, an order indicating the determination as a judgment 275
against the person and requiring the person to pay the 276
appropriate fine and any additional penalties shall be entered 277
in the records of the parking violations bureau, joint parking 278
violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, or the juvenile 279
court, whichever is applicable. 280

(2) If a person for whom a hearing is to be conducted 281
under division (A) of this section fails to appear at the 282
scheduled hearing and fails to submit evidence in accordance 283
with that division, the hearing examiner or referee shall, ~~if he~~ 284
~~determines~~after determining from any evidence and testimony 285
presented at the hearing, by a preponderance of the evidence, 286
that the person committed the parking infraction, enter a 287
default judgment against the person and require the person to 288
pay the appropriate fine and any additional penalties. A default 289
judgment entered under this division shall be entered in the 290
records of the parking violations bureau, joint parking 291

violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, or the juvenile 292
court, whichever is applicable. 293

(3) If a person who is sent a notification of infraction 294
pursuant to section 4521.07 of the Revised Code does not timely 295
answer, as provided in division (C) of that section, the hearing 296
examiner of the parking violations bureau or joint parking 297
violations bureau, the hearing examiner or referee of the 298
traffic violations bureau, or the referee of the juvenile court, 299
whichever is applicable, shall, ~~if he determines~~ after 300
determining from any evidence and testimony presented ~~to him~~ by 301
the local authority, by a preponderance of the evidence, that 302
the person committed the parking infraction, enter a default 303
judgment against the person and require the person to pay the 304
appropriate fine and any additional penalties. A default 305
judgment entered under this division shall be entered in the 306
records of the parking violations bureau, joint parking 307
violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, or the juvenile 308
court, whichever is applicable. 309

(4) If the hearing examiner or referee does not determine, 310
by a preponderance of the evidence, that a person in any of the 311
classes described in division (B) (1), (2), or (3) of this 312
section committed the parking infraction, the hearing examiner 313
or referee shall enter judgment against the local authority 314
whose ordinance, resolution, or regulation allegedly was 315
violated, shall dismiss the charge of the parking infraction 316
against the person, and shall enter the judgment and dismissal 317
in the records of the traffic violations bureau, joint parking 318
violations bureau, or parking violations bureau, or the juvenile 319
court, whichever is applicable. 320

(5) A default judgment entered under this section may be 321

vacated by the hearing examiner or referee who entered it if all 322
of the following apply: 323

(a) The person against whom the default judgment was 324
entered files a motion with the proper parking violations 325
bureau, joint parking violations bureau, or traffic violations 326
bureau, or the proper juvenile court within one year of the date 327
of entry of the judgment; 328

(b) The motion sets forth a sufficient defense to the 329
parking infraction out of which the judgment arose; 330

(c) The motion sets forth excusable neglect as to the 331
person's failure to attend the hearing or answer the 332
notification of infraction. 333

~~(C)~~(C)(1) Payment of any judgment or default judgment 334
entered against a person pursuant to this section shall be made 335
to the violations clerk of the parking violations bureau, joint 336
parking violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, or to 337
the clerk of the juvenile court, in which the judgment was 338
entered within ten days of the date of entry. All money paid in 339
satisfaction of a judgment or default judgment shall be 340
disbursed by the clerk to the local authority whose ordinance, 341
resolution, or regulation was violated, and the clerk shall 342
enter the fact of payment of the money and its disbursement in 343
the records of the bureau or juvenile court. If payment is not 344
made within this time period, the judgment or default judgment 345
may be filed with the clerk of the municipal court or county 346
court within whose territorial jurisdiction the ordinance, 347
resolution, or regulation was violated, and when so filed, shall 348
have the same force and effect as a money judgment in a civil 349
action rendered in that court. 350

Judgments and default judgments filed with a court 351
pursuant to this division shall be maintained in a separate 352
index and judgment roll from other judgments rendered in the 353
court. Computer printouts, microfilm, microdot, microfiche, or 354
other similar data recording techniques may be utilized to 355
record such judgments. When a judgment or default judgment is 356
filed with a court, execution may be levied, and such other 357
measures may be taken for its collection as are authorized for 358
the collection of an unpaid money judgment in a civil action 359
rendered in that court. The municipal or county court may assess 360
costs against the judgment debtor, in an amount not exceeding 361
ten dollars for each parking infraction, to be paid upon 362
satisfaction of the judgment. 363

(2) In lieu of filing a judgment or default judgment with 364
a municipal court or county court pursuant to division (C)(1) of 365
this section, the clerk of the parking violations bureau, joint 366
parking violations bureau, or traffic violations bureau, or the 367
clerk of the juvenile court, whichever is applicable, may, 368
within ten days of the date of the judgment entry, do either of 369
the following: 370

(a) Certify the judgment or default judgment amount to the 371
attorney general for collection under section 131.02 of the 372
Revised Code; 373

(b) Assign the judgment or default judgment amount to a 374
collection agency in accordance with section 4521.11 of the 375
Revised Code. 376

(D) Any person against whom a judgment or default judgment 377
is entered pursuant to this section and any local authority 378
against whom a judgment is entered pursuant to this section may 379
appeal the judgment or default judgment to the municipal court 380

or county court within whose territorial jurisdiction the 381
ordinance, resolution, or regulation was violated if the 382
judgment or default judgment was entered by a bureau, or to a 383
judge of the juvenile court within whose territorial 384
jurisdiction the ordinance, resolution, or regulation was 385
violated if the judgment or default judgment was entered by a 386
referee of a juvenile court, by filing notices of appeal with 387
the parking violations bureau, joint parking violations bureau, 388
or traffic violations bureau, or the referee of the juvenile 389
court, in which the judgment was entered, and the municipal or 390
county court or the clerk of the juvenile court within fifteen 391
days of the date of entry of the judgment and by the payment of 392
such reasonable costs as the court or juvenile judge requires. 393
Upon the filing of an appeal, the court or juvenile judge shall 394
schedule a hearing date and notify the parties of the date, 395
time, and place of the hearing. The hearing shall be held by the 396
court or juvenile judge in accordance with the rules of the 397
court. Service of a notice of appeal under this division by a 398
person does not stay enforcement and collection of the judgment 399
or default judgment from which appeal is taken by the person 400
unless the person who files the appeal posts bond with the 401
parking violations bureau, joint parking violations bureau, or 402
traffic violations bureau, or the juvenile court, in the amount 403
of the judgment, plus court costs, at or before service of the 404
notice of appeal. 405

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the judgment 406
on appeal of the municipal or county court or of the juvenile 407
judge is final, and no other appeal of the judgment of the 408
parking violations bureau, joint parking violations bureau, or 409
traffic violations bureau, or of the referee of the juvenile 410
court, whichever is applicable, and no appeal of the judgment of 411

the municipal or county court or of the juvenile judge may be 412
taken. 413

(E) A judgment or default judgment entered pursuant to 414
this section may be filed with a municipal court or county court 415
under division (C) of this section at any time within three 416
years after the date of issuance of the parking ticket charging 417
the parking infraction out of which the judgment arose. This 418
division applies to any ticket issued for an offense that would 419
be a parking infraction on or after the effective date of this 420
section, if the ticket was issued within three years prior to 421
the effective date of this section and a warrant has not been 422
issued and served on the operator or owner of the vehicle 423
involved in the offense. 424

Sec. 4521.11. (A) A clerk of the parking violations 425
bureau, joint parking violations bureau, or traffic violations 426
bureau, or the clerk of the juvenile court, whichever is 427
applicable, within ten days of the date of a judgment entry made 428
in accordance with section 4521.08 of the Revised Code, may 429
assign an unpaid judgment or default judgment to a collection 430
agency for collection. 431

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the 432
contrary, any collection fee charged by the collection agency 433
for services provided under this section shall be the sole 434
compensation to that agency for its services. Any collection fee 435
charged by a collection agency under this division shall not 436
exceed the lesser of twenty per cent of the amount of the 437
original parking ticket fine or fifteen dollars. 438

(C) Any collection fee charged by the collection agency 439
under division (B) of this section shall be added to the 440
judgment amount owed by the offender. Such collection fee shall 441

<u>be itemized separately from all of the following:</u>	442
<u>(1) The amount specified for the original parking ticket</u>	443
<u>fine;</u>	444
<u>(2) Any late-payment penalty that was imposed under</u>	445
<u>section 4521.02 of the Revised Code;</u>	446
<u>(3) Any administrative, processing, or collection fee that</u>	447
<u>was imposed under section 4521.02 of the Revised Code;</u>	448
<u>(4) Any court costs or fees that were imposed under</u>	449
<u>section 4521.08 of the Revised Code.</u>	450
Section 2. That existing sections 4521.01, 4521.02,	451
4521.06, and 4521.08 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	452
Section 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect one	453
hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section.	454