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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 773
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Williams and Klopfenstein

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC), by July 1, 2027, to enter into contracts with authorized motor fuel retailers to ensure that each service facility connected to the Ohio Turnpike sells E15 blended fuel.
- Requires OTIC to include information regarding the installation progress and costs of the E15 blended fuel project in its annual comprehensive financial report and to annually certify the continued availability of E15 blended fuel at each service facility.
- Requires OTIC to conduct a feasibility study for the installation, retrofitting, or other construction associated with ensuring each Ohio Turnpike service facility can sell biodiesel fuel.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

E15 blended fuel for sale

The bill requires the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC), by July 1, 2027, to enter into contracts with one or more authorized motor fuel retailers to ensure that each service facility connected to the Ohio Turnpike sells E15 blended fuel. E15 blended fuel is a gasoline that is blended with 10 to 15% ethanol. OTIC must ensure that E15 is available at the service facilities in fuel pumps that are either adjacent to or comparable to all the other forms of fuel for sale at those service facilities. An authorized motor fuel retailer is any person licensed in Ohio to offer motor fuel for retail sale to the public and that is under contract with OTIC to sell motor fuel at the service facilities along the Ohio Turnpike.¹

¹ R.C. 5537.01(FF) and (GG) and 5537.31(A).

To finance the installation, retrofitting, or other construction associated with ensuring each service facility can sell E15 blended fuel, the bill allows OTIC to treat the project as any other Ohio Turnpike project. Thus, the costs may be paid from Turnpike revenues, state taxes, or the proceeds of the bonds issued by OTIC. Additionally, OTIC may seek federal grants that are available for alternative fuel infrastructure or other funds that are available through similar incentive programs.²

The bill authorizes OTIC to adopt rules related to equipment standards, safety compliance, timelines, and funding agreements for the installation, retrofitting, or other construction associated with ensuring the availability of E15 blended fuel at service facilities in accordance with the bill's requirements.³

Reporting requirements

The bill requires OTIC to include information regarding the installation progress and costs of the E15 blended fuel project in each annual comprehensive financial report it submits to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Director of Budget and Management prior to July 1, 2027. Once each installation at a service facility is completed, the report must also include a certification of the availability of E15 blended fuel at those service facilities. Beginning July 1, 2027, OTIC must certify in its annual report the continued availability of E15 blended fuel at each service facility.⁴

Feasibility study

The bill requires OTIC to conduct a feasibility study for the installation, retrofitting, or other construction associated with ensuring that each service facility along the Ohio Turnpike can sell biodiesel fuel. As part of the study, OTIC must perform a cost analysis related to the expansion of fuel options to include biodiesel fuel and an analysis of what infrastructure, if any, would need to be changed to accommodate a biodiesel pump at the service facilities. OTIC must complete the feasibility study within 12 months after the bill's effective date.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-24-26

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² R.C. 5537.31(B).

³ R.C. 5537.04(A)(18).

⁴ R.C. 5537.31(C); R.C. 5537.17, not in the bill.

⁵ Section 3.