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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 814**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 814's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Roemer

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) will incur administrative costs to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for removal of the program. If approved, Ohio EPA will experience additional administrative costs to terminate the E-Check Program, offset by a decrease in GRF expenses of up to \$13.2 million per year currently spent to operate the program.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions of the state.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill requires the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Director to submit a request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to remove the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program (commonly known as "E-Check") from the state's air quality compliance implementation plan if U.S. EPA determines that Ohio or any area of Ohio are reclassified as in attainment with national ambient air quality standards. If the request is granted, Ohio EPA must take any actions necessary to effectuate the program's termination. The program is paid for by the state, with no costs to local subdivisions.

Ohio EPA will incur administrative costs to apply to U.S. EPA for the removal of the E-Check Program from the state's implementation plan which the agency can likely absorb with appropriated staff and resources. If the request is approved, Ohio EPA will experience additional administrative costs to terminate the E-Check Program. Any administrative costs to terminate the program will be offset by a decrease in GRF expenses that are currently incurred (primarily in contract costs).

Discontinuation of the program could result in decreased GRF expenditures of about \$13.2 million per year from GRF appropriation line item (ALI) 715502, Auto Emissions E-Check

Program. This line item pays for the implementation, supervision, administration, and enforcement of E-Check. Typically, between 85% and 90% of this line item is dedicated to purchased personal services, specifically to contract with Envirotest Systems, the contractor that operates the testing program. The remainder of the appropriation item is allocated to administrative costs, including staffing who certify the testing equipment, respond to requests for information and complaints, and issue exemptions and extensions when appropriate.

E-Check started in January 1996 to identify motor vehicles that emit excessive levels of pollutants into the air. Vehicle emission tests are performed in seven northeastern Ohio counties: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit. In 2024, 861,290 vehicle emission tests were performed at 23 testing stations, 21 self-service testing kiosks, and 43 independent garages.