

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 931

Representative Williams

To amend sections 125.831 and 125.832 and to enact 1
section 125.833 of the Revised Code regarding 2
use of E15 blended fuel for state motor 3
vehicles. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 125.831 and 125.832 be amended 5
and section 125.833 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 6
follows: 7

Sec. 125.831. As used in sections 125.831 to 125.834 of 8
the Revised Code: 9

(A) "Alternative fuel" means any of the following fuels 10
used in a motor vehicle: 11

(1) E85 blend fuel; 12

(2) Blended biodiesel; 13

(3) Natural gas; 14

(4) Liquefied petroleum gas; 15

(5) Hydrogen; 16

(6) Compressed air; 17

(7) Any power source, including electricity; 18

(8) Any fuel not described in divisions (A) (1) to (7) of 19
this section that the United States department of energy 20
determines, by final rule, to be substantially not petroleum, 21
and that would yield substantial energy security and 22
environmental benefits. 23

(B) "Biodiesel" means a mono-alkyl ester combustible 24
liquid fuel that is derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, 25
or any combination of those reagents that meets the American 26
society for testing and materials specification for biodiesel 27
fuel (B100) blend stock distillate fuels and any other standards 28
that the director of administrative services adopts by rule. 29

(C) "Blended biodiesel" means a blend of biodiesel with 30
petroleum based diesel fuel in which the resultant product 31
contains not less than twenty per cent biodiesel that meets the 32
American society for testing and materials specification for 33
blended diesel fuel and any other standards that the director of 34
administrative services adopts by rule. 35

(D) "Diesel fuel" means any liquid fuel that is capable of 36
use in discrete form or as a blend component in the operation of 37
engines of the diesel type. 38

(E) "E15 blended fuel" means gasoline that contains more 39
than ten and not more than fifteen volume per cent ethanol. 40

(F) "E85 blend fuel" means fuel containing eighty-five per 41
cent or more ethanol as defined in section 122.075 of the 42
Revised Code or containing any other percentage of not less than 43
seventy per cent ethanol if the United States department of 44
energy determines, by rule, that the lower percentage is 45
necessary to provide for the requirements of cold start, safety, 46
or vehicle functions, and that meets the American society for 47

testing and materials specification for E85 blend fuel and any 48
other standards that the director of administrative services 49
adopts by rule. 50

~~(F)~~(G) "Law enforcement officer" means an officer, agent, 51
or employee of a state agency upon whom, by statute, a duty to 52
conserve the peace or to enforce all or certain laws is imposed 53
and the authority to arrest violators is conferred, within the 54
limits of that statutory duty and authority, but does not 55
include such an officer, agent, or employee if that duty and 56
authority is location specific. 57

~~(G)~~~~(1)~~(H) (1) "Motor vehicle" means any automobile, car 58
minivan, cargo van, passenger van, sport utility vehicle, or 59
pickup truck with a gross vehicle weight of under twelve 60
thousand pounds. 61

(2) "Motor vehicle" does not include, except for the 62
purposes of division (C) of section 125.832 of the Revised Code, 63
any vehicle described in division ~~(G)~~~~(1)~~(H) (1) of this section 64
that is used by a law enforcement officer and law enforcement 65
agency or any vehicle that is so described and that is equipped 66
with specialized equipment that is not normally found in such a 67
vehicle and that is used to carry out a state agency's specific 68
and specialized duties and responsibilities. 69

~~(H)~~(I) "Specialized equipment" does not include standard 70
mobile radios with no capabilities other than voice 71
communication, exterior and interior lights, or roof-mounted 72
caution lights. 73

~~(I)~~(J) "State agency" means every organized body, office, 74
board, authority, commission, or agency established by the laws 75
of the state for the exercise of any governmental or quasi- 76

governmental function of state government regardless of the 77
funding source for that entity, other than any state institution 78
of higher education, the office of the governor, lieutenant 79
governor, auditor of state, treasurer of state, secretary of 80
state, or attorney general, the general assembly or any 81
legislative agency, the courts or any judicial agency, or any 82
state retirement system or retirement program established by or 83
referenced in the Revised Code. 84

~~(J)~~(K) "State institution of higher education" has the 85
same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code. 86

Sec. 125.832. (A) The department of administrative 87
services is granted exclusive authority over the acquisition and 88
management of all motor vehicles used by state agencies. In 89
carrying out this authority, the department shall do both of the 90
following: 91

(1) Approve the purchase or lease of each motor vehicle 92
for use by a state agency. The department shall decide if a 93
motor vehicle shall be leased or purchased for that use. 94

Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(1) of this 95
section, on and after July 1, 2005, each state agency shall 96
acquire all passenger motor vehicles under the department's 97
master leasing program. If the department determines that 98
acquisition under that program is not the most economical method 99
and if the department and the state agency acquiring the 100
passenger motor vehicle can provide economic justification for 101
doing so, the department may approve the purchase, rather than 102
the lease, of a passenger motor vehicle for the acquiring state 103
agency. 104

(2) Direct and approve all funds that are expended for the 105

purchase, lease, repair, maintenance, registration, insuring, 106
and other costs related to the possession and operation of motor 107
vehicles for the use of state agencies. 108

(B) The director of administrative services shall 109
establish and operate a fleet management program. The director 110
shall operate the program for purposes including, but not 111
limited to, cost-effective acquisition, maintenance, management, 112
analysis, and disposal of all motor vehicles owned or leased by 113
the state. All state agencies shall comply with statewide fleet 114
management policies and procedures established by the director 115
for the program, including, but not limited to, motor vehicle 116
assignments, additions of motor vehicles to fleets or motor 117
vehicle replacements, motor vehicle fueling, and motor vehicle 118
repairs. 119

(C) The director shall establish and maintain a fleet 120
reporting system and shall require state agencies to submit to 121
the department information relative to state motor vehicles, 122
including motor vehicles described in division ~~(G) (2)~~ (H) (2) of 123
section 125.831 of the Revised Code, to be used in operating the 124
fleet management program. State agencies shall provide to the 125
department fleet data and other information, including, but not 126
limited to, mileage and costs. The data and other information 127
shall be submitted in formats and in a manner determined by the 128
department. 129

(D) All state agency purchases or leases of motor vehicles 130
are subject to the prior approval of the director under division 131
(A) (1) of this section. 132

(E) State agencies that utilize state motor vehicles or 133
pay mileage reimbursements to employees shall provide a fleet 134
plan to the department as directed by the department. 135

(F) (1) The fleets of state agencies that consist of one hundred or less vehicles on July 1, 2004, shall be managed by the department's fleet management program on a time schedule determined by the department, unless the state agency has received delegated authority as described in division (G) of this section.

(2) The fleets of state agencies that consist of greater than one hundred motor vehicles, but less than five hundred motor vehicles, on July 1, 2005, also shall be managed by the department's fleet management program on a time schedule determined by the department, unless the state agency has received delegated authority as described in division (G) of this section.

(G) (1) The department may delegate any or all of its duties regarding fleet management to a state agency, if the state agency demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department both of the following:

(a) Capabilities to institute and manage a fleet management program, including, but not limited to, the presence of a certified fleet manager;

(b) Fleet management performance, as demonstrated by fleet data and other information submitted pursuant to annual reporting requirements and any other criteria the department considers necessary in evaluating the performance.

(2) The department may determine that a state agency is not in compliance with this section and direct that the agency's fleet management duties be transferred to the department.

(H) The proceeds derived from the disposition of any motor vehicles under this section shall be paid to whichever of the

following applies:	165
(1) The fund that originally provided moneys for the purchase or lease of the motor vehicles;	166 167
(2) If the motor vehicles were originally purchased with moneys derived from the general revenue fund, the proceeds shall be deposited, in the director's discretion, into the state treasury to the credit of either the fleet management fund created by section 125.83 of the Revised Code or the investment recovery fund created by section 125.14 of the Revised Code. Any such proceeds deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the investment recovery fund may be transferred from the investment recovery fund to the fleet management fund.	168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176
(I) (1) The department shall create and maintain a certified fleet manager program.	177 178
(2) State agencies that have received delegated authority as described in division (G) of this section shall have a certified fleet manager.	179 180 181
(J) The department annually shall prepare and submit a statewide fleet report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the senate. The report shall be submitted not later than the thirty-first day of January following the end of each fiscal year. It may include, but is not limited to, the numbers and types of motor vehicles, their mileage, miles per gallon, and cost per mile, mileage reimbursements, accident and insurance data, and information regarding compliance by state agencies having delegated authority under division (G) of this section with applicable fleet management requirements.	182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192
(K) The director shall adopt rules for implementing the	193

fleet management program that are consistent with recognized 194
best practices. The program shall be supported by reasonable fee 195
charges for the services provided. The director shall collect 196
these fees and deposit them into the state treasury to the 197
credit for the fleet management fund created by section 125.83 198
of the Revised Code. The setting and collection of fees under 199
this division is not subject to any restriction imposed by law 200
upon the director's or the department's authority to set or 201
collect fees. 202

(L) The director also shall adopt rules that prohibit, 203
except in very limited circumstances, the exclusive assignment 204
of state-owned, leased, or pooled motor vehicles to state 205
employees and that prohibit the reimbursement under section 206
126.31 of the Revised Code of state employees who use their own 207
motor vehicles for any mileage they incur above an amount that 208
the department shall determine annually unless reimbursement for 209
the excess mileage is approved by the department in accordance 210
with standards for that approval the director shall establish in 211
those rules. Beginning on September 26, 2003, no state-owned, 212
leased, or pooled motor vehicle shall be personally assigned as 213
any form of compensation or benefit of state employment, and no 214
state-owned, leased, or pooled motor vehicle shall be assigned 215
to an employee solely for commuting to and from home and work. 216

(M) The director shall do both of the following: 217

(1) Implement to the greatest extent possible the 218
recommendations from the 2002 report entitled "Administrative 219
Analysis of the Ohio Fleet Management Program" in connection 220
with the authority granted to the department by this section; 221

(2) Attempt to reduce the number of passenger vehicles 222
used by state agencies during the fiscal years ending on June 223

30, 2004, and June 30, 2005.	224
(N) Each state agency shall reimburse the department for all costs incurred in the assignment of motor vehicles to the state agency.	225 226 227
(O) The director shall do all of the following in managing the fleet management program:	228 229
(1) Determine how motor vehicles will be maintained, insured, operated, financed, and licensed;	230 231
(2) Pursuant to the formula in division (O) (3) of this section, annually establish the minimum number of business miles per year an employee of a state agency must drive in order to qualify for approval by the department to receive a motor vehicle for business use;	232 233 234 235 236
(3) Establish the minimum number of business miles per year at an amount that results when the annual motor vehicle cost is divided by the amount that is the reimbursement rate per mile minus the amount that is the sum of the fuel cost, the operating cost, and the insurance cost. As used in this division:	237 238 239 240 241 242
(a) "Annual motor vehicle cost" means the price of a motor vehicle divided by the number of years an average motor vehicle is used.	243 244 245
(b) "Fuel cost" means the average price per gallon of motor fuel divided by the miles per gallon fuel efficiency of a motor vehicle.	246 247 248
(c) "Insurance cost" means the cost of insuring a motor vehicle per year divided by the number of miles an average motor vehicle is driven per year.	249 250 251

(d) "Operating cost" means the maintenance cost of a motor vehicle per year divided by the number of miles an average motor vehicle is driven per year. 252
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(e) "Reimbursement rate per mile" means the reimbursement per mile rate for travel expenses as provided by rule of the director of budget and management adopted under division (B) of section 126.31 of the Revised Code. 255
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Sec. 125.833. (A) Subject to divisions (B) and (C) of this section, all motor vehicles owned or leased by the state that are not subject to section 125.834 of the Revised Code and that are capable of using E15 blended fuel shall be refueled using E15 blended fuel if that fuel is reasonably available at a reasonable price. 259
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(B) The director of administrative services shall phase-in the requirements of division (A) of this section in twenty-five per cent increments over the course of the four years following the effective date of this section. The director shall determine the best mechanism, under the rules adopted under division (C) of this section, for implementing the phase-in, whether by location of the subject motor vehicles, state departments or agencies whose employees operate the subject motor vehicles, or individuals who operate the subject motor vehicles. 265
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(C) The director of administrative services, under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules to implement the fuel use and phase-in requirements of this section. The directors and heads of all state departments and agencies shall issue a directive to all state employees who use state motor vehicles informing them of the fuel use requirement when instructed to do so by the director of administrative services. The directive shall instruct state employees to purchase E15 274
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<u>blended fuel at retail fuel facilities whenever possible in</u>	282
<u>accordance with this section.</u>	283
Section 2. That existing sections 125.831 and 125.832 of	284
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	285