

**As Introduced**

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

**H. B. No. 946**

**Representative Abrams**

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To amend sections 3905.83 and 3905.84 and to enact 1  
sections 109.861 and 3905.96 of the Revised Code 2  
to enact law regarding charitable bail 3  
organizations. 4

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3905.83 and 3905.84 be amended 5  
and sections 109.861 and 3905.96 of the Revised Code be enacted 6  
to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 109.861.** (A) The attorney general shall investigate 8  
any civil violation of section 3905.84 or 3905.96 of the Revised 9  
Code relating to charitable bail organizations. 10

(B) When it appears to the attorney general, as a result 11  
of an investigation under division (A) of this section, that 12  
there is cause to pursue a civil remedy, the attorney general 13  
may initiate and prosecute any civil action in any court or 14  
tribunal of competent jurisdiction in this state. When 15  
proceeding under this section, the attorney general has all 16  
rights, privileges, and powers of prosecuting attorneys, and any 17  
assistant or special counsel designated by the attorney general 18  
for that purpose has the same authority. 19

**Sec. 3905.83.** As used in sections 3905.83 to 3905.95 of 20

the Revised Code: 21

(A) "Charitable bail organization" means an organization, 22  
including an organization that is exempt from federal income 23  
taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(a) and described in subsection 24  
501(c) and (d), that solicits or accepts donations from the 25  
public for the purpose of furnishing a cash bond or surety bail 26  
bond for a person indicted for or otherwise charged with a 27  
criminal offense. 28

(B) "Insurer" means any domestic, foreign, or alien 29  
insurance company that has been issued a certificate of 30  
authority by the superintendent of insurance to transact surety 31  
business in this state. 32

~~(B)~~(C) "Managing general agent" means any person that is 33  
appointed or employed by an insurer to supervise or otherwise 34  
manage the bail bond business written in this state by surety 35  
bail bond agents appointed by the insurer. 36

~~(C)~~(D) "Surety" means an insurer that agrees to be 37  
responsible for the fulfillment of the obligation of a principal 38  
if the principal fails to fulfill that obligation. 39

**Sec. 3905.84.** No person or charitable bail organization 40  
shall act in the capacity of a surety bail bond agent, or 41  
perform any of the functions, duties, or powers prescribed for 42  
surety bail bond agents under sections 3905.83 to 3905.95 of the 43  
Revised Code, unless that person is qualified, licensed, and 44  
appointed as provided in those sections. 45

**Sec. 3905.96.** (A) No charitable bail organization shall 46  
furnish a person indicted for or otherwise charged with a 47  
criminal offense with a cash bond or surety bail bond if any of 48  
the following apply: 49

(1) The person is indicted for or otherwise charged with 50  
an offense of violence. 51

(2) The person is indicted for or otherwise charged with a 52  
felony, and the person previously has been convicted of or 53  
pleaded guilty to an offense of violence. 54

(3) The person has previously been released on bond and 55  
failed to appear for two or more court appearances. 56

(B) The attorney general may commence a civil action under 57  
this section. If the court finds that a charitable bail 58  
organization has violated this section, the court shall impose 59  
on the charitable bail organization a civil fine in an amount of 60  
ten thousand dollars and may grant injunctive relief. If the 61  
court imposes a civil fine on a charitable bail organization 62  
under this section, the attorney general shall deposit the civil 63  
fine into the reparations fund created by section 2743.191 of 64  
the Revised Code. 65

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3905.83 and 3905.84 of 66  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 67