OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 948
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 948's Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. A. White and K. Miller

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Maggie West, Senior Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) will incur one-time minimal costs to incorporate pedestrian and bicyclist safety into driver examinations and training including updating related administrative rules, and to conduct a study related to electric bicycles (e-bikes) and related vehicles. Any costs incurred are expected to be absorbed utilizing existing staff and resources.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may incur some minimal administrative costs to produce and distribute education materials on Ohio e-bike laws and general traffic rules. Any costs incurred are expected to be absorbed utilizing existing staff and resources.

Detailed Analysis

The bill makes several changes related to existing law regarding the operation of electric bicycles (e-bikes), including certain educational requirements and traffic safety.

Department of Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) will incur minimal one-time administrative costs to modify the existing driver's license examination and the driver's education curriculum and to update related administrative rules and to complete the study and report its findings as required. These costs are expected to be absorbed utilizing existing staff and resources.

The bill requires ODPS to modify the written examination for driver's licenses to include at least one question regarding the safe operation of a motor vehicle adjacent to pedestrians and bicyclists and requires driver education courses, both in person and online, to include instruction on sharing the roadway with pedestrians and bicycle operators.

The bill also requires ODPS to conduct a study related to e-bikes and similar vehicles within 30 days of the bill's effective date to assess how e-bikes and similar vehicles fit into existing law and whether new training or requirements are needed and report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly within three months after the bill's effective date. The bill's specific requirements for the e-bike study can be found in the H.B. 948 bill analysis (PDF).

Department of Transportation

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may incur some minimal administrative costs to produce and distribute education materials on Ohio e-bike laws and general traffic rules. ODOT currently maintains an e-bike webpage providing education materials on Ohio e-bike laws and general traffic rules, which appears to largely address the requirements of the bill. Any new costs for producing educational materials beyond what ODOT currently provides on this webpage will be absorbed using existing staff and resources. Specifically, the bill requires ODOT, in consultation with ODPS, to:

- Maintain a summary of Ohio e-bike laws;
- Create videos explaining general traffic rules for e-bike operators to be published on the departments' websites; and
- Design and distribute an educational leaflet or pamphlet, either electronically or on paper, to e-bike retail sellers and driver training schools.

People for Bikes, a trade association, estimates roughly 920,000 e-bikes were sold in the United States of America in 2024. Approximately half of these sales were direct to consumers while the remainder includes retail and peer-to-peer sales.

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