As Reported by the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

131st General Assembly

Regular Session 2015-2016

Sub. S. B. No. 296

Senator Seitz

Cosponsors: Senators Coley, Jones, Hite, Burke, Bacon, Jordan, Uecker, Patton, Eklund, Hackett Representatives Blessing, Buchy, Green, McColley

A BILL

То	amend sections 3501.17, 3501.28, 3501.32,	1
	3505.18, 3505.181, and 3505.183 and to enact	2
	sections 2505.40, 3501.321, and 3501.40 of the	3
	Revised Code to specify requirements for	4
	lawsuits concerning election procedures, to	5
	specify the conditions under which a court may	6
	order that a polling place be kept open for	7
	extended hours on the day of an election, and to	8
	require a person who votes during those extended	9
	hours to cast a provisional ballot.	10

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

Section 1. That sections 3501.17, 3501.28, 3501.32,	11
3505.18, 3505.181, and 3505.183 be amended and sections 2505.40,	12
3501.321, and 3501.40 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as	13
follows:	14
Sec. 2505.40. For each day on which an election is held in	15
the territory over which a court of appeals has jurisdiction,	16
the court shall establish a special election day panel. The	17

panel	shai	11	be .	ava.	ilak	ole 1	upon	ins	tant	notic	e to	<u>hear</u>	<u>and</u>	
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<u>deterr</u>	nıne	on	th	at (day	any	appe	ea⊥_	illeo	with	1t	under	divi	slon
(C) (1)	of	se	cti	on :	3501	1.32	1 of	the	Revi	sed C	ode.			

Sec. 3501.17. (A) The expenses of the board of elections 21 shall be paid from the county treasury, in pursuance of 22 appropriations by the board of county commissioners, in the same 23 manner as other county expenses are paid. If the board of county 24 commissioners fails to appropriate an amount sufficient to 25 provide for the necessary and proper expenses of the board of 26 27 elections pertaining to the conduct of elections, the board of 28 elections may apply to the court of common pleas within the county, which shall fix the amount necessary to be appropriated 29 and the amount shall be appropriated. Payments shall be made 30 upon vouchers of the board of elections certified to by its 31 chairperson or acting chairperson and the director or deputy 32 director, upon warrants of the county auditor. 33

The board of elections shall not incur any obligation 34 involving the expenditure of money unless there are moneys 3.5 sufficient in the funds appropriated therefor to meet the 36 obligation. If the board of elections requests a transfer of 37 funds from one of its appropriation items to another, the board 38 of county commissioners shall adopt a resolution providing for 39 the transfer except as otherwise provided in section 5705.40 of 40 the Revised Code. The expenses of the board of elections shall 41 be apportioned among the county and the various subdivisions as 42 provided in this section, and the amount chargeable to each 43 subdivision shall be paid as provided in division (J) of this 44 section or withheld by the county auditor from the moneys 45 payable thereto at the time of the next tax settlement. At the 46 time of submitting budget estimates in each year, the board of 47 elections shall submit to the taxing authority of each 48

subdivision, upon the request of the subdivision, an estimate of
the amount to be paid or withheld from the subdivision during
the current or next fiscal year.

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A board of township trustees may, by resolution, request that the county auditor withhold expenses charged to the township from a specified township fund that is to be credited with revenue at a tax settlement. The resolution shall specify the tax levy ballot issue, the date of the election on the levy issue, and the township fund from which the expenses the board of elections incurs related to that ballot issue shall be withheld.

- (B) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this section, the compensation of the members of the board of elections and of the director, deputy director, and regular employees in the board's offices, other than compensation for overtime worked; the expenditures for the rental, furnishing, and equipping of the office of the board and for the necessary office supplies for the use of the board; the expenditures for the acquisition, repair, care, and custody of the polling places, booths, guardrails, and other equipment for polling places; the cost of tally sheets, maps, flags, ballot boxes, and all other permanent records and equipment; the cost of all elections held in and for the state and county; and all other expenses of the board which are not chargeable to a political subdivision in accordance with this section shall be paid in the same manner as other county expenses are paid.
- (C) The compensation of precinct election officials and 75 intermittent employees in the board's offices; the cost of 76 renting, moving, heating, and lighting polling places and of 77 placing and removing ballot boxes and other fixtures and 78

79 equipment thereof, including voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment; the cost of printing and 80 delivering ballots, cards of instructions, registration lists 81 required under section 3503.23 of the Revised Code, and other 82 election supplies, including the supplies required to comply 8.3 with division (H) of section 3506.01 of the Revised Code; the 84 cost of contractors engaged by the board to prepare, program, 85 test, and operate voting machines, marking devices, and 86 automatic tabulating equipment; and all other expenses of 87 conducting primaries and elections in the odd-numbered years 88 shall be charged to the subdivisions in and for which such 89 primaries or elections are held. The charge for each primary or 90 general election in odd-numbered years for each subdivision 91 shall be determined in the following manner: first, the total 92 cost of all chargeable items used in conducting such elections 93 shall be ascertained; second, the total charge shall be divided 94 by the number of precincts participating in such election, in 95 order to fix the cost per precinct; third, the cost per precinct 96 shall be prorated by the board of elections to the subdivisions 97 conducting elections for the nomination or election of offices 98 in such precinct; fourth, the total cost for each subdivision 99 shall be determined by adding the charges prorated to it in each 100 precinct within the subdivision. 101

(D) The entire cost of special elections held on a day 102 other than the day of a primary or general election, both in 103 odd-numbered or in even-numbered years, shall be charged to the 104 subdivision. Where a special election is held on the same day as 105 a primary or general election in an even-numbered year, the 106 subdivision submitting the special election shall be charged 107 only for the cost of ballots and advertising. Where a special 108 election is held on the same day as a primary or general 109

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election in an odd-numbered year, the subdivision submitting the	110
special election shall be charged for the cost of ballots and	111
advertising for such special election, in addition to the	112
charges prorated to such subdivision for the election or	113
nomination of candidates in each precinct within the	114
subdivision, as set forth in the preceding paragraph.	115

- (E) Where a special election is held on the day specified 116 by division (E) of section 3501.01 of the Revised Code for the 117 holding of a primary election, for the purpose of submitting to 118 the voters of the state constitutional amendments proposed by 119 the general assembly, and a subdivision conducts a special 120 election on the same day, the entire cost of the special 121 122 election shall be divided proportionally between the state and the subdivision based upon a ratio determined by the number of 123 issues placed on the ballot by each, except as otherwise 124 provided in division (G) of this section. Such proportional 125 division of cost shall be made only to the extent funds are 126 available for such purpose from amounts appropriated by the 127 general assembly to the secretary of state. If a primary 128 election is also being conducted in the subdivision, the costs 129 shall be apportioned as otherwise provided in this section. 130
- (F) When a precinct is open during a general, primary, or special election solely for the purpose of submitting to the voters a statewide ballot issue, the state shall bear the entire cost of the election in that precinct and shall reimburse the county for all expenses incurred in opening the precinct.
- (G) (1) The state shall bear the entire cost of advertising 136 in newspapers statewide ballot issues, explanations of those 137 issues, and arguments for or against those issues, as required 138 by Section 1g of Article II and Section 1 of Article XVI, Ohio 139

Constitution, and any other section of law. Appropriations made	140
to the controlling board shall be used to reimburse the	141
secretary of state for all expenses the secretary of state	142
incurs for such advertising under division (G) of section	143
3505.062 of the Revised Code.	144

- (2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the 145 statewide ballot advertising fund. The fund shall receive 146 transfers approved by the controlling board, and shall be used 147 by the secretary of state to pay the costs of advertising state 148 ballot issues as required under division (G)(1) of this section. 149 Any such transfers may be requested from and approved by the 150 controlling board prior to placing the advertising, in order to 151 facilitate timely provision of the required advertising. 152
- (H) The cost of renting, heating, and lighting

 registration places; the cost of the necessary books, forms, and

 supplies for the conduct of registration; and the cost of

 printing and posting precinct registration lists shall be

 charged to the subdivision in which such registration is held.
- (I) At the request of a majority of the members of the 158 board of elections, the board of county commissioners may, by 159 resolution, establish an elections revenue fund. Except as 160 otherwise provided in this division, the purpose of the fund 161 shall be to accumulate revenue withheld by or paid to the county 162 under this section for the payment of any expense related to the 163 duties of the board of elections specified in section 3501.11 of 164 the Revised Code, upon approval of a majority of the members of 165 the board of elections. The fund shall not accumulate any 166 revenue withheld by or paid to the county under this section for 167 the compensation of the members of the board of elections or of 168 the director, deputy director, or other regular employees in the 169

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board's offices, other than compensation for overtime worked.

Notwithstanding sections 5705.14, 5705.15, and 5705.16 of the Revised Code, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, transfer money to the elections revenue fund from any other fund of the political subdivision from which such payments lawfully may be made. Following an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board of elections, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, rescind an elections revenue fund established under this division. If an elections revenue fund is rescinded, money that has accumulated in the fund shall be transferred to the county general fund.

- (J) (1) Not less than fifteen business days before the 181 deadline for submitting a question or issue for placement on the 182 ballot at a special election, the board of elections shall 183 prepare and file with the board of county commissioners and the 184 office of the secretary of state the estimated cost, based on 185 the factors enumerated in this section, for preparing for and 186 conducting an election on one question or issue, one nomination 187 for office, or one election to office in each precinct in the 188 county at that special election and shall divide that cost by 189 the number of registered voters in the county. 190
- (2) The board of elections shall provide to a political 191 subdivision seeking to submit a question or issue, a nomination 192 for office, or an election to office for placement on the ballot 193 at a special election with the estimated cost for preparing for 194 and conducting that election, which shall be calculated either 195 by multiplying the number of registered voters in the political 196 subdivision with the cost calculated under division (J)(1) of 197 this section or by multiplying the cost per precinct with the 198 number or precincts in the political subdivision. A political 199

(K) (1) Prior to the day of an election, the board of 230

calculated under this division within thirty days after

receiving that notification.

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Standards Act is amended to increase the minimum hourly rate established by the act. Upon learning of such an increase, the secretary of state shall determine by what percentage the minimum hourly rate has been increased under the act and establish a new maximum amount of per diem compensation that precinct election officials may be paid under this section that is increased by the same percentage that the minimum hourly rate has been increased under the act.

- (D)(1)(a) No board of elections shall increase the pay of a precinct election official under this section during a calendar year unless the board has given written notice of the proposed increase to the board of county commissioners not later than the first day of October of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, a board of elections may increase the pay of a precinct election official during a calendar year by up to, but not exceeding, nine per cent over the compensation paid to a precinct election official in the county where the board is located during the previous calendar year, if the compensation so paid during the previous calendar year was eighty-five dollars or less per diem.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, a board of elections may increase the pay of a precinct election official during a calendar year by up to, but not exceeding, four and one-half per cent over the compensation paid to a precinct election official in the county where the board is located during the previous calendar year, if the compensation so paid during the previous calendar year was more than eighty-five but less than ninety-five dollars per diem.
 - (2) The board of county commissioners may review and

political subdivision.

authority of a political subdivision, or head of a state agency	378
fails to set forth any terms and conditions under division (F)	379
(1) of this section, an employee of an entity or court described	380
in division (F)(1)(a) of this section, of an entity of a	381
political subdivision described in division (F)(1)(b) of this	382
section, or of a state agency as defined in section 1.60 of the	383
Revised Code may use personal leave, vacation leave, or	384
compensatory time, or take unpaid leave, to serve as a precinct	385
election official on the day of an election.	386
(G) The board of elections may withhold the compensation	387
of any precinct election official for failure to obey the	388
instructions of the board or to comply with the law relating to	389
the duties of a precinct election official. Any payment a	390
precinct election official is entitled to receive under section	391
3501.36 of the Revised Code is in addition to the compensation	392
the official is entitled to receive under this section.	393
(H)(1) A precinct election official who works in a polling	394
place after the time for the closing of the polls, as specified	395
in section 3501.32 of the Revised Code, as a result of a court	396
order to keep the polling place open after that time shall be	397
compensated at a rate of twenty-two dollars and fifty cents per	398
hour for the period worked as a result of the court order.	399
(2) Beginning with the year 2017, in January of each year,	400
the secretary of state shall adjust the compensation rate	401
specified in division (H)(1) of this section according to the	402
percentage change in the Consumer Price Index over the previous	403
calendar year and shall publish that rate on the secretary of	404
state's official web site. As used in this division, "Consumer	405
Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban	406

Consumers or its successive equivalent, as determined by the

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court of competent jurisdiction does not subsequently enter an

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this section, the elector's driver's license or state

elector's social security number.

identification card number, or the last four digits of the

(B) After the elector has announced the elector's full 556 name and current address and provided any of the forms of 557 identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, 558 the elector shall write the elector's name and address at the 559 proper place in the poll list or signature pollbook provided for 560 the purpose, except that if, for any reason, an elector is 561 562 unable to write the elector's name and current address in the poll list or signature pollbook, the elector may make the 563 elector's mark at the place intended for the elector's name, and 564 a precinct election official shall write the name of the elector 565 at the proper place on the poll list or signature pollbook 566 following the elector's mark. The making of such a mark shall be 567 attested by the precinct election official, who shall evidence 568 the same by signing the precinct election official's name on the 569 570 poll list or signature pollbook as a witness to the mark. Alternatively, if applicable, an attorney in fact acting 571 pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code may sign the 572 elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook in 573 accordance with that section. 574

The elector's signature in the poll list or signature 575 pollbook then shall be compared with the elector's signature on 576 the elector's registration form or a digitized signature list as 577 provided for in section 3503.13 of the Revised Code, and if, in 578 the opinion of a majority of the precinct election officials, 579 the signatures are the signatures of the same person, the 580 election officials shall enter the date of the election on the 581 registration form or shall record the date by other means 582 prescribed by the secretary of state. The validity of an 583 attorney in fact's signature on behalf of an elector shall be 584 determined in accordance with section 3501.382 of the Revised 585 Code. 586

<pre>If Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this</pre>	587
section, if the right of the elector to vote is not then	588
challenged, or, if being challenged, the elector establishes the	589
elector's right to vote, the elector shall be allowed to proceed	590
to use the voting machine. If voting machines are not being used	591
in that precinct, the precinct election official in charge of	592
ballots shall then detach the next ballots to be issued to the	593
elector from Stub B attached to each ballot, leaving Stub A	594
attached to each ballot, hand the ballots to the elector, and	595
call the elector's name and the stub number on each of the	596
ballots. The precinct election official shall enter the stub	597
numbers opposite the signature of the elector in the pollbook.	598
The elector shall then retire to one of the voting compartments	599
to mark the elector's ballots. No mark shall be made on any	600
ballot which would in any way enable any person to identify the	601
person who voted the ballot.	602
(C) An elector who appears in a polling place to vote	603
after the time for the closing of the polls pursuant to a court	604
order shall cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of	605
the Revised Code.	606
Sec. 3505.181. (A) All of the following individuals shall	607
be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election:	608
(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a	609
registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires	610
to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an	611
election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the	612
official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election	613
official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote;	614
(2) An individual who does not have or is unable to	615

provide to the election officials any of the forms of

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forms <u>;</u>	646
(8) An individual who appears in a polling place to vote	647
after the time for the closing of the polls pursuant to a court	648
order.	649
(B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional	650
ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to	651
cast a provisional ballot as follows:	652
(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify	653
the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot	654
in that election.	655
(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this	656
section, the individual shall complete and execute a written	657
affirmation before an election official at the polling place	658
stating that the individual is both of the following:	659
(a) A registered voter in the precinct in which the	660
individual desires to vote;	661
(b) Eligible to vote in that election.	662
(3) An election official at the polling place shall	663
transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter	664
information contained in the written affirmation executed by the	665
individual under division (B)(2) of this section to an	666
appropriate local election official for verification under	667
division (B)(4) of this section.	668
(4) If the appropriate local election official to whom the	669
ballot or voter or address information is transmitted under	670
division (B)(3) of this section determines that the individual	671
is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall	672
be counted as a vote in that election.	673

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- (5) (a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the individual written information that states that any individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under the system established under division (B)(5)(b) of this section whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.
- (b) The appropriate state or local election official shall 681 establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free 682 telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional 683 ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that 684 individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the 685 reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system 686 established under this division also shall provide to an 687 individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information 688 explaining how that individual may contact the board of 689 elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the 690 individual's voter registration. 691

The appropriate state or local election official shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free access system established under this division. The system shall permit an individual only to gain access to information about the individual's own provisional ballot.

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional 699 ballot, the individual provides identification in the form of a 700 current and valid photo identification, a military 701 identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank 702 statement, government check, paycheck, or other government 703

document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a	70
board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code,	7 C
that shows the individual's name and current address, or	7 C
provides the individual's driver's license or state	7 C
identification card number or the last four digits of the	7 C
individual's social security number, the individual shall record	7 C
the type of identification provided or the driver's license,	71
state identification card, or social security number information	71
and include that information on the provisional ballot	71
affirmation under division (B)(3) of this section.	71

- (7) During the seven days after the day of an election, an individual who casts a provisional ballot because the individual does not have or is unable to provide to the election officials any of the required forms of identification or because the individual has been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code shall appear at the office of the board of elections and provide to the board any additional information necessary to determine the eliqibility of the individual who cast the provisional ballot.
- (a) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who does not have or is unable to provide to the election officials any of the required forms of identification to be eligible to be counted, the individual who cast that ballot, within seven days after the day of the election, shall do either of the following:
- (i) Provide to the board of elections proof of the 728 individual's identity in the form of a current and valid photo 729 identification, a military identification, or a copy of a 730 current utility bill, bank statement, government check, 731 paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of 732 voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 733

3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the individual's name	734
and current address; or	735
(ii) Provide to the board of elections the individual's	736
driver's license or state identification card number or the last	737
four digits of the individual's social security number.	738
(b) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has	739
been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the	740
Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who	741
cast that ballot, within seven days after the day of that	742
election, shall provide to the board of elections any	743
identification or other documentation required to be provided by	744
the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual	745
under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code.	746
(C)(1) If an individual declares that the individual is	747
eligible to vote in a precinct other than the precinct in which	748
the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the	749
precinct voting location guide using the residential street	750
address provided by the individual, an election official at the	751
precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that	752
the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the	753
election official shall direct the individual to the precinct	754
and polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible	755
to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional	756
ballot at the current location but the ballot or a portion of	757
the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong	758
precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of	759
elections in case the individual has additional questions.	760
(2) If the individual refuses to travel to the correct	761
precinct or to the office of the board of elections to cast a	762

ballot, the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional

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precinct election officials of different political parties. A blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may receive assistance on the day of an election under that section.

Sec. 3505.183. (A) When the ballot boxes are delivered to 825 the board of elections from the precincts, the board shall 826 separate the provisional ballot envelopes from the rest of the 827 ballots. Teams of employees of the board consisting of one 828 829 member of each major political party shall place the sealed provisional ballot envelopes in a secure location within the 830 office of the board. The sealed provisional ballot envelopes 831 shall remain in that secure location until the validity of those 832 ballots is determined under division (B) of this section. While 833 the provisional ballot is stored in that secure location, and 834 prior to the counting of the provisional ballots, if the board 835 receives information regarding the validity of a specific 836 provisional ballot under division (B) of this section, the board 837 may note, on the sealed provisional ballot envelope for that 838 ballot, whether the ballot is valid and entitled to be counted. 839

(B) (1) To determine whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the board shall examine its records and determine whether the individual who cast the provisional ballot is registered and eligible to vote in the applicable election. The board shall examine the information contained in the written affirmation executed by the individual who cast the provisional ballot under division (B) (2) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. The following information shall be included in the written affirmation in order for the provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted:

(2) A board of elections that remakes a provisional ballot

under division (D) (1) of this section shall remake the 1023 provisional ballot on a ballot for the appropriate precinct to 1024 reflect the offices, questions, and issues for which the 1025 individual was eligible to cast a ballot and for which the 1026 individual attempted to cast a provisional ballot. The remade 1027 ballot shall be counted for each office, question, and issue for 1028 which the individual was eligible to vote. 1029

- (3) If an individual cast a provisional ballot in a 1030 precinct in which the individual is not registered and eligible 1031 to vote and in the incorrect polling location for the precinct 1032 in which the individual is registered and eligible to vote, the 1033 provisional ballot envelope shall not be opened, and the ballot 1034 shall not be counted.
- (E) Provisional ballots that are rejected under division 1036
 (B) (4) of this section shall not be counted but shall be 1037
 preserved in their provisional ballot envelopes unopened until 1038
 the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the 1039
 destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which 1040
 ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed. 1041
- (F) Provisional ballots that the board determines are 1042 eligible to be counted under division (B)(3) or (D) of this 1043 section shall be counted in the same manner as provided for 1044 other ballots under section 3505.27 of the Revised Code. No 1045 provisional ballots shall be counted in a particular county 1046 until the board determines the eligibility to be counted of all 1047 provisional ballots cast in that county under division (B) of 1048 this section for that election. Observers, as provided in 1049 section 3505.21 of the Revised Code, may be present at all times 1050 that the board is determining the eligibility of provisional 1051 ballots to be counted and counting those provisional ballots 1052

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hereby repealed.	1083
Section 3. Section 3505.18 of the Revised Code is	1084
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended	1085
by Sub. S.B. 47, Am. Sub. S.B. 109, and Sub. S.B. 216, all of	1086
the 130th General Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the	1087
principle stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised	1088
Code that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable	1089
of simultaneous operation, finds that the composite is the	1090
resulting version of the section in effect prior to the	1091
effective date of the section as presented in this act.	1092