

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2019-2020**

**S. B. No. 291**

**Senators Lehner, Hottinger**

**Cosponsors: Senators Gavarone, Rulli, Yuko**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 4503.10 of the Revised Code to  
provide for the proration of the plug-in  
electric and hybrid motor vehicle registration  
fees. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 4503.10 of the Revised Code be  
amended to read as follows: 5  
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**Sec. 4503.10.** (A) The owner of every snowmobile, off-  
highway motorcycle, and all-purpose vehicle required to be  
registered under section 4519.02 of the Revised Code shall file  
an application for registration under section 4519.03 of the  
Revised Code. The owner of a motor vehicle, other than a  
snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, that  
is not designed and constructed by the manufacturer for  
operation on a street or highway may not register it under this  
chapter except upon certification of inspection pursuant to  
section 4513.02 of the Revised Code by the sheriff, or the chief  
of police of the municipal corporation or township, with  
jurisdiction over the political subdivision in which the owner 7  
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of the motor vehicle resides. Except as provided in section 19  
4503.103 of the Revised Code, every owner of every other motor 20  
vehicle not previously described in this section and every 21  
person mentioned as owner in the last certificate of title of a 22  
motor vehicle that is operated or driven upon the public roads 23  
or highways shall cause to be filed each year, by mail or 24  
otherwise, in the office of the registrar of motor vehicles or a 25  
deputy registrar, a written or electronic application or a 26  
preprinted registration renewal notice issued under section 27  
4503.102 of the Revised Code, the form of which shall be 28  
prescribed by the registrar, for registration for the following 29  
registration year, which shall begin on the first day of January 30  
of every calendar year and end on the thirty-first day of 31  
December in the same year. Applications for registration and 32  
registration renewal notices shall be filed at the times 33  
established by the registrar pursuant to section 4503.101 of the 34  
Revised Code. A motor vehicle owner also may elect to apply for 35  
or renew a motor vehicle registration by electronic means using 36  
electronic signature in accordance with rules adopted by the 37  
registrar. Except as provided in division (J) of this section, 38  
applications for registration shall be made on blanks furnished 39  
by the registrar for that purpose, containing the following 40  
information: 41

(1) A brief description of the motor vehicle to be 42  
registered, including the year, make, model, and vehicle 43  
identification number, and, in the case of commercial cars, the 44  
gross weight of the vehicle fully equipped computed in the 45  
manner prescribed in section 4503.08 of the Revised Code; 46

(2) The name and residence address of the owner, and the 47  
township and municipal corporation in which the owner resides; 48

(3) The district of registration, which shall be	49
determined as follows:	50
(a) In case the motor vehicle to be registered is used for	51
hire or principally in connection with any established business	52
or branch business, conducted at a particular place, the	53
district of registration is the municipal corporation in which	54
that place is located or, if not located in any municipal	55
corporation, the county and township in which that place is	56
located.	57
(b) In case the vehicle is not so used, the district of	58
registration is the municipal corporation or county in which the	59
owner resides at the time of making the application.	60
(4) Whether the motor vehicle is a new or used motor	61
vehicle;	62
(5) The date of purchase of the motor vehicle;	63
(6) Whether the fees required to be paid for the	64
registration or transfer of the motor vehicle, during the	65
preceding registration year and during the preceding period of	66
the current registration year, have been paid. Each application	67
for registration shall be signed by the owner, either manually	68
or by electronic signature, or pursuant to obtaining a limited	69
power of attorney authorized by the registrar for registration,	70
or other document authorizing such signature. If the owner	71
elects to apply for or renew the motor vehicle registration with	72
the registrar by electronic means, the owner's manual signature	73
is not required.	74
(7) The owner's social security number, driver's license	75
number, or state identification number, or, where a motor	76
vehicle to be registered is used for hire or principally in	77

connection with any established business, the owner's federal 78  
taxpayer identification number. The bureau of motor vehicles 79  
shall retain in its records all social security numbers provided 80  
under this section, but the bureau shall not place social 81  
security numbers on motor vehicle certificates of registration. 82

(B) Except as otherwise provided in this division, each 83  
time an applicant first registers a motor vehicle in the 84  
applicant's name, the applicant shall present for inspection a 85  
physical certificate of title or memorandum certificate showing 86  
title to the motor vehicle to be registered in the name of the 87  
applicant if a physical certificate of title or memorandum 88  
certificate has been issued by a clerk of a court of common 89  
pleas. If, under sections 4505.021, 4505.06, and 4505.08 of the 90  
Revised Code, a clerk instead has issued an electronic 91  
certificate of title for the applicant's motor vehicle, that 92  
certificate may be presented for inspection at the time of first 93  
registration in a manner prescribed by rules adopted by the 94  
registrar. An applicant is not required to present a certificate 95  
of title to an electronic motor vehicle dealer acting as a 96  
limited authority deputy registrar in accordance with rules 97  
adopted by the registrar. When a motor vehicle inspection and 98  
maintenance program is in effect under section 3704.14 of the 99  
Revised Code and rules adopted under it, each application for 100  
registration for a vehicle required to be inspected under that 101  
section and those rules shall be accompanied by an inspection 102  
certificate for the motor vehicle issued in accordance with that 103  
section. The application shall be refused if any of the 104  
following applies: 105

(1) The application is not in proper form. 106

(2) The application is prohibited from being accepted by 107

division (D) of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 108  
2937.221, division (A) of section 4503.13, division (B) of 109  
section 4510.22, or division (B)(1) of section 4521.10 of the 110  
Revised Code. 111

(3) A certificate of title or memorandum certificate of 112  
title is required but does not accompany the application or, in 113  
the case of an electronic certificate of title, is required but 114  
is not presented in a manner prescribed by the registrar's 115  
rules. 116

(4) All registration and transfer fees for the motor 117  
vehicle, for the preceding year or the preceding period of the 118  
current registration year, have not been paid. 119

(5) The owner or lessee does not have an inspection 120  
certificate for the motor vehicle as provided in section 3704.14 121  
of the Revised Code, and rules adopted under it, if that section 122  
is applicable. 123

This section does not require the payment of license or 124  
registration taxes on a motor vehicle for any preceding year, or 125  
for any preceding period of a year, if the motor vehicle was not 126  
taxable for that preceding year or period under sections 127  
4503.02, 4503.04, 4503.11, 4503.12, and 4503.16 or Chapter 4504. 128  
of the Revised Code. When a certificate of registration is 129  
issued upon the first registration of a motor vehicle by or on 130  
behalf of the owner, the official issuing the certificate shall 131  
indicate the issuance with a stamp on the certificate of title 132  
or memorandum certificate or, in the case of an electronic 133  
certificate of title, an electronic stamp or other notation as 134  
specified in rules adopted by the registrar, and with a stamp on 135  
the inspection certificate for the motor vehicle, if any. The 136  
official also shall indicate, by a stamp or by other means the 137

registrar prescribes, on the registration certificate issued 138  
upon the first registration of a motor vehicle by or on behalf 139  
of the owner the odometer reading of the motor vehicle as shown 140  
in the odometer statement included in or attached to the 141  
certificate of title. Upon each subsequent registration of the 142  
motor vehicle by or on behalf of the same owner, the official 143  
also shall so indicate the odometer reading of the motor vehicle 144  
as shown on the immediately preceding certificate of 145  
registration. 146

The registrar shall include in the permanent registration 147  
record of any vehicle required to be inspected under section 148  
3704.14 of the Revised Code the inspection certificate number 149  
from the inspection certificate that is presented at the time of 150  
registration of the vehicle as required under this division. 151

(C) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (1) of 152  
this section, the registrar and each deputy registrar shall 153  
collect an additional fee of eleven dollars for each application 154  
for registration and registration renewal received. For vehicles 155  
specified in divisions (A) (1) to (21) of section 4503.042 of the 156  
Revised Code, the registrar and deputy registrar shall collect 157  
an additional fee of thirty dollars for each application for 158  
registration and registration renewal received. No additional 159  
fee shall be charged for vehicles registered under section 160  
4503.65 of the Revised Code. The additional fee is for the 161  
purpose of defraying the department of public safety's costs 162  
associated with the administration and enforcement of the motor 163  
vehicle and traffic laws of Ohio. Each deputy registrar shall 164  
transmit the fees collected under divisions (C) (1), (3), and (4) 165  
of this section in the time and manner provided in this section. 166  
The registrar shall deposit all moneys received under division 167  
(C) (1) of this section into the public safety - highway purposes 168

fund established in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code. 169

(2) In addition, a charge of twenty-five cents shall be 170  
made for each reflectorized safety license plate issued, and a 171  
single charge of twenty-five cents shall be made for each county 172  
identification sticker or each set of county identification 173  
stickers issued, as the case may be, to cover the cost of 174  
producing the license plates and stickers, including material, 175  
manufacturing, and administrative costs. Those fees shall be in 176  
addition to the license tax. If the total cost of producing the 177  
plates is less than twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total 178  
cost of producing the stickers is less than twenty-five cents 179  
per sticker or per set issued, any excess moneys accruing from 180  
the fees shall be distributed in the same manner as provided by 181  
section 4501.04 of the Revised Code for the distribution of 182  
license tax moneys. If the total cost of producing the plates 183  
exceeds twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total cost of 184  
producing the stickers exceeds twenty-five cents per sticker or 185  
per set issued, the difference shall be paid from the license 186  
tax moneys collected pursuant to section 4503.02 of the Revised 187  
Code. 188

(3) The registrar and each deputy registrar shall collect 189  
an additional fee of two hundred dollars for each application 190  
for registration or registration renewal received for any plug- 191  
in electric motor vehicle. The fee shall be prorated based on 192  
the number of months for which the plug-in electric motor 193  
vehicle is registered. The registrar shall transmit all money 194  
arising from the fee imposed by division (C)(3) of this section 195  
to the treasurer of state for distribution in accordance with 196  
division (E) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code, subject to 197  
division (D) of section 5735.05 of the Revised Code. 198

(4) The registrar and each deputy registrar shall collect 199  
an additional fee of one hundred dollars for each application 200  
for registration or registration renewal received for any hybrid 201  
motor vehicle. The fee shall be prorated based on the number of 202  
months for which the hybrid motor vehicle is registered. The 203  
registrar shall transmit all money arising from the fee imposed 204  
by division (C) (4) of this section to the treasurer of state for 205  
distribution in accordance with division (E) of section 5735.051 206  
of the Revised Code, subject to division (D) of section 5735.05 207  
of the Revised Code. 208

The fees established under divisions (C) (3) and (4) of 209  
this section shall not be imposed until January 1, 2020. 210

(D) Each deputy registrar shall be allowed a fee equal to 211  
the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised 212  
Code for each application for registration and registration 213  
renewal notice the deputy registrar receives, which shall be for 214  
the purpose of compensating the deputy registrar for the deputy 215  
registrar's services, and such office and rental expenses, as 216  
may be necessary for the proper discharge of the deputy 217  
registrar's duties in the receiving of applications and renewal 218  
notices and the issuing of registrations. 219

(E) Upon the certification of the registrar, the county 220  
sheriff or local police officials shall recover license plates 221  
erroneously or fraudulently issued. 222

(F) Each deputy registrar, upon receipt of any application 223  
for registration or registration renewal notice, together with 224  
the license fee and any local motor vehicle license tax levied 225  
pursuant to Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, shall transmit 226  
that fee and tax, if any, in the manner provided in this 227  
section, together with the original and duplicate copy of the 228

application, to the registrar. The registrar, subject to the 229  
approval of the director of public safety, may deposit the funds 230  
collected by those deputies in a local bank or depository to the 231  
credit of the "state of Ohio, bureau of motor vehicles." Where a 232  
local bank or depository has been designated by the registrar, 233  
each deputy registrar shall deposit all moneys collected by the 234  
deputy registrar into that bank or depository not more than one 235  
business day after their collection and shall make reports to 236  
the registrar of the amounts so deposited, together with any 237  
other information, some of which may be prescribed by the 238  
treasurer of state, as the registrar may require and as 239  
prescribed by the registrar by rule. The registrar, within three 240  
days after receipt of notification of the deposit of funds by a 241  
deputy registrar in a local bank or depository, shall draw on 242  
that account in favor of the treasurer of state. The registrar, 243  
subject to the approval of the director and the treasurer of 244  
state, may make reasonable rules necessary for the prompt 245  
transmittal of fees and for safeguarding the interests of the 246  
state and of counties, townships, municipal corporations, and 247  
transportation improvement districts levying local motor vehicle 248  
license taxes. The registrar may pay service charges usually 249  
collected by banks and depositories for such service. If deputy 250  
registrars are located in communities where banking facilities 251  
are not available, they shall transmit the fees forthwith, by 252  
money order or otherwise, as the registrar, by rule approved by 253  
the director and the treasurer of state, may prescribe. The 254  
registrar may pay the usual and customary fees for such service. 255

(G) This section does not prevent any person from making 256  
an application for a motor vehicle license directly to the 257  
registrar by mail, by electronic means, or in person at any of 258  
the registrar's offices, upon payment of a service fee equal to 259

the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each application. 260  
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(H) No person shall make a false statement as to the district of registration in an application required by division (A) of this section. Violation of this division is falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and punishable as specified in that section. 262  
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(I) (1) Where applicable, the requirements of division (B) of this section relating to the presentation of an inspection certificate issued under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it for a motor vehicle, the refusal of a license for failure to present an inspection certificate, and the stamping of the inspection certificate by the official issuing the certificate of registration apply to the registration of and issuance of license plates for a motor vehicle under sections 4503.102, 4503.12, 4503.14, 4503.15, 4503.16, 4503.171, 4503.172, 4503.19, 4503.40, 4503.41, 4503.42, 4503.43, 4503.44, 4503.46, 4503.47, and 4503.51 of the Revised Code. 267  
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(2) (a) The registrar shall adopt rules ensuring that each owner registering a motor vehicle in a county where a motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program is in effect under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it receives information about the requirements established in that section and those rules and about the need in those counties to present an inspection certificate with an application for registration or preregistration. 279  
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(b) Upon request, the registrar shall provide the director of environmental protection, or any person that has been awarded a contract under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, an on-line 287  
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computer data link to registration information for all passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars that are subject to that section. The registrar also shall provide to the director of environmental protection a magnetic data tape containing registration information regarding passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars for which a multi-year registration is in effect under section 4503.103 of the Revised Code or rules adopted under it, including, without limitation, the date of issuance of the multi-year registration, the registration deadline established under rules adopted under section 4503.101 of the Revised Code that was applicable in the year in which the multi-year registration was issued, and the registration deadline for renewal of the multi-year registration.

(J) Subject to division (K) of this section, application for registration under the international registration plan, as set forth in sections 4503.60 to 4503.66 of the Revised Code, shall be made to the registrar on forms furnished by the registrar. In accordance with international registration plan guidelines and pursuant to rules adopted by the registrar, the forms shall include the following:

(1) A uniform mileage schedule;

(2) The gross vehicle weight of the vehicle or combined gross vehicle weight of the combination vehicle as declared by the registrant;

(3) Any other information the registrar requires by rule.

(K) The registrar shall determine the feasibility of implementing an electronic commercial fleet licensing and management program that will enable the owners of commercial

tractors, commercial trailers, and commercial semitrailers to 319  
conduct electronic transactions by July 1, 2010, or sooner. If 320  
the registrar determines that implementing such a program is 321  
feasible, the registrar shall adopt new rules under this 322  
division or amend existing rules adopted under this division as 323  
necessary in order to respond to advances in technology. 324

If international registration plan guidelines and 325  
provisions allow member jurisdictions to permit applications for 326  
registrations under the international registration plan to be 327  
made via the internet, the rules the registrar adopts under this 328  
division shall permit such action. 329

**Section 2.** That existing section 4503.10 of the Revised 330  
Code is hereby repealed. 331