As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

**135th General Assembly** 

**Regular Session** 

Sub. H. B. No. 201

2023-2024

**Representatives Hillyer, Demetriou** 

Cosponsors: Representatives Seitz, Cross, Cutrona, Barhorst, Klopfenstein, Stein, Willis, Williams, McClain, Dobos, Carruthers, Johnson, Abrams, Bird, Brennan, Click, Creech, Edwards, Fowler Arthur, Gross, Hall, Holmes, Hoops, John, Jones, Kick, King, Lear, Lorenz, Loychik, Mathews, Merrin, Miller, K., Miller, M., Peterson, Plummer, Robb Blasdel, Rogers, Schmidt, Stoltzfus, Swearingen, Thomas, J., Wiggam, Young, T.

# A BILL

То	amend sections 4929.16, 4929.161, 4929.162,	1
	4929.163, and 4929.165 and to enact section	2
	3704.20 of the Revised Code to prohibit a state	3
	agency, county, or township from restricting the	4
	sale or use of a motor vehicle based on the	5
	energy source used to power the motor vehicle;	6
	to prohibit a state agency from adopting the	7
	California emissions standards for motor	8
	vehicles; and to change the requirements for	9
	natural gas company infrastructure development	10
	riders and economic development projects.	11

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

Section 1. That sections 4929.16, 4929.161, 4929.162,	12
4929.163, and 4929.165 be amended and section 3704.20 of the	13
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	14
Sec. 3704.20. (A) No state agency, township, or county	15

shall restrict the use or sale of a motor vehicle based on the	16
energy source used to power the motor vehicle, including an	17
energy source used for propulsion or used for powering other	18
functions of the motor vehicle.	19
(B) The environmental protection agency or any other state	20
agency shall not adopt any motor vehicle emissions standards	21
that are established by California as a result of California	22
having received a waiver pursuant to section 209(b) of the	23
<u>federal Clean Air Act.</u>	24
Sec. 4929.16. As used in sections 4929.16 to 4929.167 of	25
the Revised Code:	26
(A) "Infrastructure development" means constructing	27
extensions of , upgrading, extending, or any other investment	28
in, or associated with, transmission or distribution facilities	29
that, except as provided for in division (B)(2)(b) of this	30
section, a natural gas company owns and operates.	31
<del>(B)<u>(</u>B)(1)</del> "Infrastructure development costs" means <del>the</del>	32
costs associated with an investment in infrastructure	33
<u>development</u> to which <u>both either of</u> the following apply:	34
(1) The investment is in infrastructure development.	35
$\frac{(2)}{(a)}$ The investment is for any deposit required by the	36
natural gas company, as defined in the line-extension provision	37
of the company's tariff, less any contribution in aid of	38
construction received from the owner or developer of the	39
project.	40
(b) The investment is designed to provide natural gas	41
service to a site or economic development project that is	42
supported by JobsOhio, any JobsOhio network or regional partner,	43
or the department of development.	44

(2) "Infrastructure development costs" includes <del>planning,</del>	45
all of the following:	46
(a) Planning, development, and construction costs and, if	47
applicable, any allowance for funds used during construction,	48
including costs incurred prior to the approval of an economic	49
development project pursuant to section 4929.163 of the Revised	50
Code;	51
(b) Costs associated with establishing or upgrading any	52
connections with any source of supply to serve an economic	53
development project, including interstate or intrastate	54
pipelines, regardless of ownership of the facilities;	55
(c) A return on all infrastructure development costs, with	56
such return equal to the natural gas company's return on equity	57
authorized in the natural gas company's most recently approved	58
rate case under section 4909.18 of the Revised Code.	59
Sec. 4929.161. (A) A natural gas company may file an	60
application with the public utilities commission for approval of	61
an infrastructure development rider to recover prudently	62
incurred infrastructure development costs of one or more	63
economic development projects approved under section 4929.163 of	64
the Revised Code.	65
(B) The commission shall approve a maximum of one	66
infrastructure development rider per company.	67
(C) The commission shall not accept an application for	68
infrastructure development costs described under division (B)(1)	69
(b) of section 4929.16 of the Revised Code unless a natural gas	70
company has obtained a notification by JobsOhio, any JobsOhio	71
network or regional partner, or the director of development that	72
the project should be considered. The commission shall not	73

approve an application for an economic development project that	74
includes infrastructure development costs described under	75
division (B)(1)(b) of section 4929.16 of the Revised Code filed	76
beyond six years from the effective date of the amendment to	77
this section by H.B. 201 of the 135th general assembly.	78
(D) Notwithstanding division (C) of this section, recovery	79
of infrastructure development costs pursuant to section 4929.16	80
of the Revised Code for any approved economic development	81
projects filed within six years of the effective date of the	82
amendment to this section by H.B. 201 of the 135th general	83
assembly shall continue until such time as all costs eligible	84
for recovery under sections 4929.16 to 4929.163 of the Revised	85
Code are recovered.	86
Sec. 4929.162. Under an infrastructure development rider,	87
in each monthly billing period:	88
(A) The natural gas company may not recover more than one	89
dollar and fifty cents from any single customer in this state,	90
for all projects that were approved under section 4929.163 of	91
the Revised Code and for which recovery was authorized under	92
that rider.	93
(B) The company shall recover the same amount from every	94
customer.	95
(C)(1) If requested by the natural gas company, the public	96
utilities commission shall approve a regulatory deferral,	97
including carrying costs at the company's cost of long-term debt	98
as approved in its most recent rate case or as otherwise	99
provided in division (C)(2) of this section, for the	100
infrastructure development rider revenue requirement in any year	101
in which the approved customer charge exceeds or is expected to	102

exceed the limitation under division (A) of this section. Only
new costs from that year may be considered a part of the cost
contributing to the excess in customer charges. No costs from

previous years shall contribute to that amount.

(2) If the natural gas company does not have a commission-107approved cost of long-term debt, the company shall propose a108rate for the carrying cost. The company may propose a rate or109methodology for calculating carrying costs that differs from the110company's cost of long-term debt approved in its most recent111rate case.112

(3) The commission shall permit the company to collect any 113 deferred and unrecovered infrastructure development costs in the 114 subsequent year and continuing thereafter, subject to division 115 (C) (5) of this section, so long as the infrastructure 116 development rider rate does not exceed the limit in division (A) 117 of this section. Once costs have been applied to an approved 118 regulatory deferral, the costs remain as part of that deferral 119 and shall not be reallocated to a future deferral application. 120

(4) The commission shall permit carrying costs to accrue121until such time as the entirety of the regulatory deferral and122all carrying costs have been recovered, or until the termination123of the deferral either by commission order, court order, or124subject to division (C) (5) of this section.125

(5) The commission may grant a deferral under this section126not to exceed five years after its approval by the commission.127The commission may grant a deferral under this section for less128than five years. After the deferral period granted by the129commission has ended, any remaining unrecovered costs shall not130be subject to future deferral, a rate case, or other cost131recovery mechanism.132

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(D)(1) The commission, for an applicant's economic	133
development project, may approve the collection of any	134
infrastructure development costs that are not funded through a	135
disbursement from the all Ohio future fund under section 126.62	136
of the Revised Code or through another rider or rate mechanism	137
approved under section 4909.18 of the Revised Code.	138
(2) A natural gas company that is prohibited under	139
division (D)(1) of this section from recovering infrastructure	140
development costs for a particular site or project in an	141
infrastructure development rider may recover infrastructure	142
development costs for other sites or economic development	143
projects under division (B)(1)(b) of section 4929.16 of the	144
Revised Code that do not satisfy the requirements of division	145
(D)(1) of this section.	146
Sec. 4929.163. (A) A natural gas company may file an	147
application with the public utilities commission for approval of	148
an economic development project, including a project for which	149
an application has been made under section 122.9511 of the	150
Revised Code for certification under the SiteOhio certification	151
program for which the company will incur infrastructure	152
development costs.	153
(B) The company shall file the application for project	154
approval prior to beginning the project.	155
(C) The application for project approval, to the extent	156
applicable, shall contain a description of each of the	157
following:	158
(1) The economic development project;	159
(2) The infrastructure development costs to be expended on	160
the project;	161

(3) How the project meets the criteria set forth in rules	162
adopted under division (D) of this section;	163
(4) The support for the project by an economic development	164
entity or chamber of commerce. For purposes of this application	165
requirement, "economic development entity" includes any of the	166
following:	167
(a) JobsOhio or any JobsOhio network or regional partner;	168
(b) <del>Development services agencyDepartment of development</del> ;	169
(c) Port authority created under Chapter 4582. of the	170
Revised Code;	171
(d) Special improvement district created under Chapter	172
1710. of the Revised Code;	173
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(e) Community urban redevelopment corporation qualified to	174
operate under Chapter 1728. of the Revised Code;	175
(f) Community improvement corporation organized under	176
Chapter 1724. of the Revised Code;	177
(g) New community authority organized under Chapter 349.	178
of the Revised Code;	179
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(h) Joint economic development district created under	180 181
section 715.70 or 715.71 of the Revised Code;	101
(i) Development corporation organized under Chapter 1726.	182
of the Revised Code;	183
(j) Municipal utility district designated under section	184
715.84 of the Revised Code.	185
(D) (D) (1) The commission shall adopt vulce estring forth	1 0 <i>C</i>
(D)(1) The commission shall adopt rules setting forth the criteria for project approval under this section.	186 187
che criteria foi project approvar under this section.	TO /

(2) The commission may approve a project under this 188 section that involves infrastructure development costs described 189 in division (B)(1)(a) of section 4929.16 of the Revised Code if 190 the infrastructure development costs, excluding the return set 191 forth in division (B)(2)(c) of section 4929.16 of the Revised 192 Code, are projected to generate a return on the company's 193 investment that is less than the most recently authorized rate-194 of return on equity. 195

(E) The commission shall adopt rules to provide for an 196 accelerated review of an application filed under division (A) of 197 this section. The rules shall provide for the automatic approval 198 of the application not later than thirty days after the date of 199 the application filing unless the commission suspends the 200 application for good cause shown. If the application is 201 suspended, the commission shall approve, deny, modify, or hold a 202 hearing on the application not later than forty-five days after 203 the date that the suspension begins. 204

Sec. 4929.165. (A) A natural gas company that has 205 established an infrastructure development rider under section 206 4929.161 of the Revised Code shall file an annual report with 207 the public utilities commission. The report shall do both of the 208 following: 209

(A) (1) Detail the infrastructure development costs 210 related to the applicable economic development project or 211 projects; 212

 $\frac{(B)-(2)}{(B)-(2)}$  Set forth the rider rate for the twelve months following the annual report.

(B) The commission annually shall submit to the general215assembly, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code,216

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a report describing all of the following:	217
(1) The number of applications filed pursuant to division	218
(B)(1)(a) of section 4929.16 of the Revised Code and the number	219
of applications filed pursuant to division (B)(1)(b) of section	220
4929.16 of the Revised Code;	221
(2) The number of applications approved that were filed	222
pursuant to division (B)(1)(a) of section 4929.16 of the Revised	223
Code and the number of applications approved that were filed	224
pursuant to division (B)(1)(b) of section 4929.16 of the Revised	225
<u>Code;</u>	226
(3) The monetary amount approved for recovery through each	227
natural gas company infrastructure development rider and the	228
total monetary amount approved for recovery through all	229
infrastructure development riders for all natural gas companies;	230
(4) The number of approved economic development projects	231
on which all construction has been completed;	232
(5) A list containing the construction status of all	233
approved economic projects, including if construction has not	234
commenced or, if construction has commenced, but not completed,	235
a description of any structures on which construction has been	236
completed.	237
Section 2. That existing sections 4929.16, 4929.161,	238
4929.162, 4929.163, and 4929.165 of the Revised Code are hereby	239
repealed.	240