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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 96  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Merrin

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### SUMMARY

- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules that authorize an owner or a lessee of a noncommercial trailer to register the trailer permanently.
- Specifies that the one-time cost of a permanent registration is:
  - Eight times the annual registration tax for a noncommercial trailer (which is determined by the weight of the trailer);
  - Eight times the annual \$11 Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee;
  - Eight times the amount of any local motor vehicle taxes (if applicable); and
  - The \$5 deputy registrar/BMV service fee.
- Specifies that a permanent registration is not transferable to any other trailer and is nonrefundable.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Noncommercial trailer registration

The bill requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules that authorize an owner or a lessee of a noncommercial trailer to register that trailer permanently.<sup>1</sup> Under current law, the owner or lessee of a noncommercial trailer may only register the trailer annually or for up to five years under the multi-year registration program available to most motor vehicles. The owner or lessee of a commercial trailer or semitrailer, however, has a permanent registration option. The bill creates a similar process for noncommercial trailers.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4503.10(A), 4503.103(A)(5), 4503.107(A), and 4503.11.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.10 and 4503.103.

## Permanent registration costs

The bill specifies that the one-time cost of a permanent noncommercial trailer registration is:

1. Eight times the annual registration tax for a noncommercial trailer (the annual tax ranges from \$16 to \$140, depending on the unladen weight of the trailer up to 10,000 pounds);<sup>3</sup>
2. Eight times the annual Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee (the annual fee is currently \$11);
3. Eight times the amount of any local motor vehicle taxes (the annual taxes range from \$0 to \$30, depending on the taxes levied in the registrant's jurisdiction);<sup>4</sup>
4. A single deputy registrar/BMV service fee (\$5).<sup>5</sup>

Thus, for example a 5,000-pound trailer with a base annual registration cost of \$70 (\$59 for the annual registration tax plus \$11 for the additional annual BMV fee), plus the maximum amount of local motor vehicle taxes (\$30), multiplied by eight, plus the \$5 service fee, equals \$805 for a permanent registration. If the registrant registers in a jurisdiction without a local motor vehicle tax, the cost for permanent registration would be \$565.

The cost structure is similar to the current law permanent registration for a commercial trailer or semitrailer. By registering the commercial trailer permanently, the owner or lessee of the trailer pays in advance for eight years of registration, but then pays nothing in registration taxes and fees for the rest of the lifetime of the trailer beyond the eight years.<sup>6</sup>

## Permanent registration requirements

In addition to paying all required taxes and fees, an owner or lessee must submit a completed application for registration and comply with all other motor vehicle registration requirements. At that point, the Registrar or deputy registrar must issue the applicant a permanent license plate and a permanent validation sticker.<sup>7</sup> The noncommercial trailer permanent registration is exclusive to the trailer that is registered, and is not transferable to any other trailer. Additionally, the applicant is not entitled to any refund of any taxes or fees that are paid for the permanent registration (e.g., if the noncommercial trailer only lasts for five years, the applicant cannot get a refund for the additional three years of taxes and fees that were paid on it).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4503.04(E). [https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/bmv\\_non-commercial\\_trailer\\_registration\\_fees.pdf](https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/static/bmv_non-commercial_trailer_registration_fees.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. Chapter 4504. A local jurisdiction may exempt noncommercial trailers weighing 1,000 pounds or less, at the discretion of the local jurisdiction. R.C. 4504.20.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4503.038, 4503.04(E), 4503.10(C)(1), 4503.107(B), and Chapter 4504.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4503.103(A)(2).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4503.107(C) and 4503.191(A)(2)(b).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 4503.107(D) and (E).

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-09-21

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