

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 786**

**Representative Antani**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of the 1  
Revised Code to enhance the penalties for 2  
failing to stop for a school bus that is picking 3  
up or dropping of school children, to require 4  
the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to create a 5  
graphic that instructs drivers to stop for such 6  
a school bus, to require a deputy registrar to 7  
post the graphic at the deputy registrar's 8  
location, and to make an appropriation. 9

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

**Section 1.** That sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of the 10  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 11

**Sec. 4503.03.** (A) (1) (a) Except as provided in division (B) 12  
of this section, the registrar of motor vehicles may designate 13  
one or more of the following persons to act as a deputy 14  
registrar in each county: 15

(i) The county auditor in any county, subject to division 16  
(A) (1) (b) (i) of this section; 17

(ii) The clerk of a court of common pleas in any county, 18  
subject to division (A) (1) (b) (ii) of this section; 19

(iii) An individual;	20
(iv) A nonprofit corporation as defined in division (C) of section 1702.01 of the Revised Code.	21 22
(b) (i) If the population of a county is forty thousand or less according to the most recent federal decennial census and if the county auditor is designated by the registrar as a deputy registrar, no other person need be designated in the county to act as a deputy registrar.	23 24 25 26 27
(ii) The registrar may designate a clerk of a court of common pleas as a deputy registrar if the population of the county is forty thousand or less according to the last federal census. In a county with a population greater than forty thousand but not more than fifty thousand according to the last federal census, the clerk of a court of common pleas is eligible to act as a deputy registrar and may participate in the competitive selection process for the award of a deputy registrar contract by applying in the same manner as any other person. All fees collected and retained by a clerk for conducting deputy registrar services shall be paid into the county treasury to the credit of the certificate of title administration fund created under section 325.33 of the Revised Code.	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41
Notwithstanding the county population restrictions in division (A) (1) (b) of this section, if no person applies to act under contract as a deputy registrar in a county and the county auditor is not designated as a deputy registrar, the registrar may ask the clerk of a court of common pleas to serve as the deputy registrar for that county.	42 43 44 45 46 47
(c) As part of the selection process in awarding a deputy	48

registrar contract, the registrar shall consider the customer 49  
service performance record of any person previously awarded a 50  
deputy registrar contract pursuant to division (A) (1) of this 51  
section. 52

(2) Deputy registrars shall accept applications for the 53  
annual license tax for any vehicle not taxed under section 54  
4503.63 of the Revised Code and shall assign distinctive numbers 55  
in the same manner as the registrar. Such deputies shall be 56  
located in such locations in the county as the registrar sees 57  
fit. There shall be at least one deputy registrar in each 58  
county. 59

Deputy registrar contracts are subject to the provisions 60  
of division (B) of section 125.081 of the Revised Code. 61

(B) (1) The registrar shall not designate any person to act 62  
as a deputy registrar under division (A) (1) of this section if 63  
the person or, where applicable, the person's spouse or a member 64  
of the person's immediate family has made, within the current 65  
calendar year or any one of the previous three calendar years, 66  
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one hundred 67  
dollars to any person or entity included in division (A) (2) of 68  
section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. As used in this division, 69  
"immediate family" has the same meaning as in division (D) of 70  
section 102.01 of the Revised Code, and "entity" includes any 71  
political party and any "continuing association" as defined in 72  
division (C) (4) of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or 73  
"political action committee" as defined in division (C) (8) of 74  
that section that is primarily associated with that political 75  
party. For purposes of this division, contributions to any 76  
continuing association or any political action committee that is 77  
primarily associated with a political party shall be aggregated 78

with contributions to that political party. 79

The contribution limitations contained in this division do 80  
not apply to any county auditor or clerk of a court of common 81  
pleas. A county auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas is 82  
not required to file the disclosure statement or pay the filing 83  
fee required under section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. The 84  
limitations of this division also do not apply to a deputy 85  
registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar 86  
contract, is elected to an office of a political subdivision. 87

(2) The registrar shall not designate either of the 88  
following to act as a deputy registrar: 89

(a) Any elected public official other than a county 90  
auditor or, as authorized by division (A) (1) (b) of this section, 91  
a clerk of a court of common pleas, acting in an official 92  
capacity, except that, the registrar shall continue and may 93  
renew a contract with any deputy registrar who, subsequent to 94  
being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to an 95  
office of a political subdivision; 96

(b) Any person holding a current, valid contract to 97  
conduct motor vehicle inspections under section 3704.14 of the 98  
Revised Code. 99

(3) As used in division (B) of this section, "political 100  
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the 101  
Revised Code. 102

(C) (1) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this 103  
section, deputy registrars are independent contractors and 104  
neither they nor their employees are employees of this state, 105  
except that nothing in this section shall affect the status of 106  
county auditors or clerks of courts of common pleas as public 107

officials, nor the status of their employees as employees of any 108  
of the counties of this state, which are political subdivisions 109  
of this state. Each deputy registrar shall be responsible for 110  
the payment of all unemployment compensation premiums, all 111  
workers' compensation premiums, social security contributions, 112  
and any and all taxes for which the deputy registrar is legally 113  
responsible. Each deputy registrar shall comply with all 114  
applicable federal, state, and local laws requiring the 115  
withholding of income taxes or other taxes from the compensation 116  
of the deputy registrar's employees. Each deputy registrar shall 117  
maintain during the entire term of the deputy registrar's 118  
contract a policy of business liability insurance satisfactory 119  
to the registrar and shall hold the department of public safety, 120  
the director of public safety, the bureau of motor vehicles, and 121  
the registrar harmless upon any and all claims for damages 122  
arising out of the operation of the deputy registrar agency. 123

(2) For purposes of Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code, 124  
determinations concerning the employment of deputy registrars 125  
and their employees shall be made under Chapter 4141. of the 126  
Revised Code. 127

(D) (1) With the approval of the director, the registrar 128  
shall adopt rules governing deputy registrars. The rules shall 129  
do all of the following: 130

(a) Establish requirements governing the terms of the 131  
contract between the registrar and each deputy registrar and the 132  
services to be performed; 133

(b) Establish requirements governing the amount of bond to 134  
be given as provided in this section; 135

(c) Establish requirements governing the size and location 136

of the deputy's office;	137
(d) Establish requirements governing the leasing of	138
equipment necessary to conduct the vision screenings required	139
under section 4507.12 of the Revised Code and training in the	140
use of the equipment;	141
(e) Encourage every deputy registrar to inform the public	142
of the location of the deputy registrar's office and hours of	143
operation by means of public service announcements;	144
(f) Allow any deputy registrar to advertise in regard to	145
the operation of the deputy registrar's office, including	146
allowing nonprofit corporations operating as a deputy registrar	147
to advertise that a specified amount of proceeds collected by	148
the nonprofit corporation are directed to a specified charitable	149
organization or philanthropic cause;	150
(g) Specify the hours the deputy's office is to be open to	151
the public and require as a minimum that one deputy's office in	152
each county be open to the public for at least four hours each	153
weekend, provided that if only one deputy's office is located	154
within the boundary of the county seat, that office is the	155
office that shall be open for the four-hour period each weekend;	156
(h) Specify that every deputy registrar, upon request,	157
provide any person with information about the location and	158
office hours of all deputy registrars in the county;	159
(i) Allow a deputy registrar contract to be awarded to a	160
nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of this state;	161
(j) Except as provided in division (D)(2) of this section,	162
prohibit any deputy registrar from operating more than one	163
deputy registrar's office at any time;	164

(k) For the duration of any deputy registrar contract, 165  
require that the deputy registrar occupy a primary residence in 166  
a location that is within a one-hour commute time from the 167  
deputy registrar's office or offices. The rules shall require 168  
the registrar to determine commute time by using multiple 169  
established internet-based mapping services. 170

(l) Establish procedures for a deputy registrar to request 171  
the authority to collect reinstatement fees under sections 172  
4507.1612, 4507.45, 4509.101, 4509.81, 4510.10, 4510.22, 173  
4510.72, and 4511.191 of the Revised Code and to transmit the 174  
reinstatement fees and two dollars of the service fee collected 175  
under those sections. The registrar shall ensure that at least 176  
one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment 177  
and is able to accept reinstatement fees. The registrar shall 178  
deposit the service fees received from a deputy registrar under 179  
those sections into the public safety - highway purposes fund 180  
created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code and shall use the 181  
money for deputy registrar equipment necessary in connection 182  
with accepting reinstatement fees. 183

(m) Establish standards for a deputy registrar, when the 184  
deputy registrar is not a county auditor or a clerk of a court 185  
of common pleas, to sell advertising rights to third party 186  
businesses to be placed in the deputy registrar's office; 187

(n) Allow any deputy registrar that is not a county 188  
auditor or a clerk of a court of common pleas to operate a 189  
vending machine; 190

(o) Specify that each deputy registrar location shall 191  
display at all times, in a prominent place on the premises, a 192  
printed card that has a graphic that instructs drivers to stop 193  
and yield to a stopped school bus when it is either loading or 194

<u>unloading passengers.</u>	195
<u>The registrar shall create and issue the graphic for</u>	196
<u>distribution to and display at each deputy registrar location.</u>	197
<u>(p)</u> Establish such other requirements as the registrar and director consider necessary to provide a high level of service.	198 199
(2) Notwithstanding division (D)(1)(j) of this section, the rules may allow both of the following:	200 201
(a) The registrar to award a contract to a deputy registrar to operate more than one deputy registrar's office if determined by the registrar to be practical;	202 203 204
(b) A nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of providing automobile-related services to its members or the public and that provides such services from more than one location in this state to operate a deputy registrar office at any location.	205 206 207 208 209
(3) As a daily adjustment, the bureau of motor vehicles shall credit to a deputy registrar the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each damaged license plate or validation sticker the deputy registrar replaces as a service to a member of the public.	210 211 212 213 214
(4) (a) With the prior approval of the registrar, each deputy registrar may conduct at the location of the deputy registrar's office any business that is consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar and that is not specifically mandated or authorized by this or another chapter of the Revised Code or by implementing rules of the registrar.	215 216 217 218 219 220
(b) In accordance with guidelines the director of public safety shall establish, a deputy registrar may operate or	221 222



contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy registrar location if products of the vending machine are consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar.

(c) A deputy registrar may enter into an agreement with the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission pursuant to division (A)(11) of section 5537.04 of the Revised Code for the purpose of allowing the general public to acquire from the deputy registrar the electronic toll collection devices that are used under the multi-jurisdiction electronic toll collection agreement between the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission and any other entities or agencies that participate in such an agreement. The approval of the registrar is not necessary if a deputy registrar engages in this activity.

(5) As used in this section and in section 4507.01 of the Revised Code, "nonprofit corporation" has the same meaning as in section 1702.01 of the Revised Code.

(E)(1) Unless otherwise terminated and except for interim contracts lasting not longer than one year, contracts with deputy registrars shall be entered into through a competitive selection process and shall be limited in duration as follows:

(a) For contracts entered into between July 1, 1996 and June 29, 2014, for a period of not less than two years, but not more than three years;

(b) For contracts entered into on or after June 29, 2014, for a period of five years, unless the registrar determines that a shorter contract term is appropriate for a particular deputy registrar.

(2) All contracts with deputy registrars shall expire on the last Saturday of June in the year of their expiration. Prior

to the expiration of any deputy registrar contract, the 252  
registrar, with the approval of the director, may award a one- 253  
year contract extension to any deputy registrar who has provided 254  
exemplary service based upon objective performance evaluations. 255

(3) (a) The auditor of state may examine the accounts, 256  
reports, systems, and other data of each deputy registrar at 257  
least every two years. The registrar, with the approval of the 258  
director, shall immediately remove a deputy who violates any 259  
provision of the Revised Code related to the duties as a deputy, 260  
any rule adopted by the registrar, or a term of the deputy's 261  
contract with the registrar. The registrar also may remove a 262  
deputy who, in the opinion of the registrar, has engaged in any 263  
conduct that is either unbecoming to one representing this state 264  
or is inconsistent with the efficient operation of the deputy's 265  
office. 266

(b) If the registrar, with the approval of the director, 267  
determines that there is good cause to believe that a deputy 268  
registrar or a person proposing for a deputy registrar contract 269  
has engaged in any conduct that would require the denial or 270  
termination of the deputy registrar contract, the registrar may 271  
require the production of books, records, and papers as the 272  
registrar determines are necessary, and may take the depositions 273  
of witnesses residing within or outside the state in the same 274  
manner as is prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in 275  
civil actions in the court of common pleas, and for that purpose 276  
the registrar may issue a subpoena for any witness or a subpoena 277  
duces tecum to compel the production of any books, records, or 278  
papers, directed to the sheriff of the county where the witness 279  
resides or is found. Such a subpoena shall be served and 280  
returned in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case is 281  
served and returned. The fees of the sheriff shall be the same 282

as that allowed in the court of common pleas in criminal cases. 283  
Witnesses shall be paid the fees and mileage provided for under 284  
section 119.094 of the Revised Code. The fees and mileage shall 285  
be paid from the fund in the state treasury for the use of the 286  
agency in the same manner as other expenses of the agency are 287  
paid. 288

In any case of disobedience or neglect of any subpoena 289  
served on any person or the refusal of any witness to testify to 290  
any matter regarding which the witness lawfully may be 291  
interrogated, the court of common pleas of any county where the 292  
disobedience, neglect, or refusal occurs or any judge of that 293  
court, on application by the registrar, shall compel obedience 294  
by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in the case of 295  
disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from that 296  
court, or a refusal to testify in that court. 297

(4) Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be 298  
construed to require a hearing of any nature prior to the 299  
termination of any deputy registrar contract by the registrar, 300  
with the approval of the director, for cause. 301

(F) Except as provided in section 2743.03 of the Revised 302  
Code, no court, other than the court of common pleas of Franklin 303  
county, has jurisdiction of any action against the department of 304  
public safety, the director, the bureau, or the registrar to 305  
restrain the exercise of any power or authority, or to entertain 306  
any action for declaratory judgment, in the selection and 307  
appointment of, or contracting with, deputy registrars. Neither 308  
the department, the director, the bureau, nor the registrar is 309  
liable in any action at law for damages sustained by any person 310  
because of any acts of the department, the director, the bureau, 311  
or the registrar, or of any employee of the department or 312

bureau, in the performance of official duties in the selection 313  
and appointment of, and contracting with, deputy registrars. 314

(G) The registrar shall assign to each deputy registrar a 315  
series of numbers sufficient to supply the demand at all times 316  
in the area the deputy registrar serves, and the registrar shall 317  
keep a record in the registrar's office of the numbers within 318  
the series assigned. Each deputy shall be required to give bond 319  
in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars, or in 320  
such higher amount as the registrar determines necessary, based 321  
on a uniform schedule of bond amounts established by the 322  
registrar and determined by the volume of registrations handled 323  
by the deputy. The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the 324  
registrar. The bonds required of deputy registrars, in the 325  
discretion of the registrar, may be individual or schedule bonds 326  
or may be included in any blanket bond coverage carried by the 327  
department. 328

(H) Each deputy registrar shall keep a file of each 329  
application received by the deputy and shall register that motor 330  
vehicle with the name and address of its owner. 331

(I) Upon request, a deputy registrar shall make the 332  
physical inspection of a motor vehicle and issue the physical 333  
inspection certificate required in section 4505.061 of the 334  
Revised Code. 335

(J) Each deputy registrar shall file a report semiannually 336  
with the registrar of motor vehicles listing the number of 337  
applicants for licenses the deputy has served, the number of 338  
voter registration applications the deputy has completed and 339  
transmitted to the board of elections, and the number of voter 340  
registration applications declined. 341

**Sec. 4511.75.** (A) The driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or 342  
trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from either 343  
direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or 344  
discharging any school child, person attending programs offered 345  
by community boards of mental health and county boards of 346  
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 347  
by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten feet from the 348  
front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until such 349  
school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus 350  
driver to proceed. 351

It is no defense to a charge under this division that the 352  
school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an 353  
automatically extended stop warning sign as required by division 354  
(B) of this section. 355

(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red 356  
visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of 357  
the Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning 358  
sign of a type approved by the state board of education, which 359  
shall be actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only 360  
whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the 361  
purpose of receiving or discharging school children, persons 362  
attending programs offered by community boards of mental health 363  
and county boards of developmental disabilities, or children 364  
attending programs offered by head start agencies. A school bus 365  
driver shall not actuate the visual signals or the stop warning 366  
sign in designated school bus loading areas where the bus is 367  
entirely off the roadway or at school buildings when children or 368  
persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental 369  
health and county boards of developmental disabilities are 370  
loading or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children 371  
attending programs offered by head start agencies are loading or 372

unloading at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign 373  
shall be synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule 374  
of the board. 375

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 376  
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 377  
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 378  
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of 379  
receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending 380  
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 381  
boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending 382  
programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any 383  
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking the school 384  
bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 385

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on 386  
highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and 387  
discharge all school children, persons attending programs 388  
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 389  
of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs 390  
offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the 391  
highway. 392

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus 393  
until after any child, person attending programs offered by 394  
community boards of mental health and county boards of 395  
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 396  
by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has 397  
reached a place of safety on the child's or person's residence 398  
side of the road. 399

(F) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section may 400  
be fined an amount not to exceed ~~five hundred~~ one thousand 401  
dollars. A person who is issued a citation for a violation of 402

division (A) of this section is not permitted to enter a written 403  
plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the 404  
citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the 405  
proper court to answer the charge. 406

(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty 407  
provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender 408  
who violates this section a class ~~seven-six~~ suspension of the 409  
offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, 410  
temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or 411  
nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in 412  
division (A) ~~(7)~~ (6) of section 4510.02 of the Revised Code. When 413  
a license is suspended under this section, the court or mayor 414  
shall cause the offender to deliver the license to the court, 415  
and the court or clerk of the court immediately shall forward 416  
the license to the registrar of motor vehicles, together with 417  
notice of the court's action. 418

(G) As used in this section: 419

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 420  
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 421

(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who 422  
attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus 423  
that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped 424  
with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type 425  
approved by the state board of education, is painted the color 426  
and displays the markings described in section 4511.77 of the 427  
Revised Code, and is equipped with amber and red visual signals 428  
meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised 429  
Code, irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more 430  
children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van 431  
owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its 432

color, lights, or markings. 433

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of 434  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 435

**Section 3.** All items in this section are hereby 436  
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 437  
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 438  
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 439  
for fiscal year 2018 and those in the second column are for 440  
fiscal year 2019. The appropriations made in this act are in 441  
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2018-FY 442  
2019 biennium. 443

DPS Department of Public Safety 444

General Revenue Fund 445

GRF 768433	School Bus Camera Grants	\$0	\$1,000,000	446
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TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$0	\$1,000,000	447
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TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$0	\$1,000,000	448
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SCHOOL BUS CAMERA GRANTS 449

The foregoing appropriation item 768433, School Bus Camera 450  
Grants, shall be used to award grants to city, local, and 451  
exempted village school districts and community schools 452  
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that are 453  
responsible for providing transportation to students enrolled in 454  
the school pursuant to section 3314.091 of the Revised Code to 455  
purchase and install external cameras on buses to record images 456  
of the license plates on cars that drive by the bus while it is 457  
stopped and loading or unloading children. 458

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 459



Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 460  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 461  
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 462  
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 463  
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 464  
as though made in Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General 465  
Assembly. 466

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 467  
provisions of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly 468  
that are generally applicable to such appropriations. 469