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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 374  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Mohamed and Dobos

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### SUMMARY

- Codifies federal law that allows certain nonresident drivers with valid international driver's licenses to drive in the U.S., including Ohio.

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### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Driver's licenses and international tourists

##### Background

Generally, certain international treaties, which have the force and effect of federal law, authorize specified foreign nationals, including tourists who are visiting the U.S., to drive under the authority of their foreign driver's license. Several U.S. states require international drivers to carry an international driving permit (IDP), which is a form of identification that translates a person's driver's license into ten languages. Although, the possession of an IDP does not replace an original driver's license issued by the nonresident's country or the requirement to present an original driver's license, it may be helpful in avoiding confusion with local law enforcement, who may not be immediately familiar with foreign driver's licenses. Ohio does not require an IDP.

##### Authorization to drive

The bill codifies the federal authorizations referenced above. Thus, the bill expressly permits non-Ohio residents with an out-of-country driver's license to operate a motor vehicle on Ohio highways, provided that the country is a treaty signatory.<sup>1</sup> However, a nonresident who

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<sup>1</sup> If the nonresident's country is a signatory to a convention regarding driver's license reciprocity and the U.S. is also a signatory to that convention, that nonresident may operate a motor vehicle on public highways in the U.S. A resident of another country who is a bona fide tourist visiting the U.S. may drive for up to one year with their own national license plates (registration tags) on their vehicle and with their own driver's license. Countries that have signed and ratified the [United Nations International](#)

operates a motor vehicle on the public highway must be readily able, upon request, to prove all of the following:

- Lawful possession of the motor vehicle being operated;
- A right to operate that motor vehicle (i.e., a valid driver’s license);
- Proper identity; and
- Legal presence within the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, the bill authorizes, but does not require, nonresident foreign drivers to carry an IDP.<sup>3</sup>

## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-08-24

ANHB0374IN-135/ts

[Convention on Road Traffic of 1949](https://treaties.un.org/) maintain this arrangement with one another (available on the United Nation’s Treaty Collection website: <https://treaties.un.org/>, by clicking on “Depositary Notifications” then “Status of Treaties,” then “CHAPTER XI,” then “Road Traffic,” and then “1. – Convention on Road Traffic, Geneva, 19 September 1949”).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4507.04(B)(1).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4507.04(B)(2).