



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 131*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Agriculture)

Reps. Pelanda, Hill, Buchy, Patmon, Anielski, Antonio, Brown, Grossman, Hackett, Hall, Hambley, Hayes, T. Johnson, Kraus, LaTourette, McClain, Patterson, Scherer, R. Smith, Sprague, Rosenberger

BILL SUMMARY

Farmland Preservation Advisory Board

- Requires one member of the existing Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to represent an Ohio university rather than the Ohio State University.

Renewal of pesticide applicator licenses

- Changes the deadline for when a commercial pesticide applicator licensee must be re-examined from one year to 180 days after the license expires, and applies the deadline requirement for re-examination to private pesticide applicator licensees.

Animal diseases

- Includes diseases of concern within the scope of the Animal Diseases Law, and defines a "disease of concern" to mean any disease that the Director of Agriculture determines may have an adverse impact on the animal or poultry industry or to the public health, excluding a disease reportable to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Accordingly, establishes or applies requirements and provisions regarding rule-making, investigations, quarantines, destruction of animals, disposal of dead animals, and enforcement.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Agriculture Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

Livestock dealers

- Prohibits a person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of the Livestock Dealers Law or rules adopted under it from acting as an owner, supervisor, employee, contractor, volunteer, or agent of a person licensed under that Law unless specifically authorized to do so by the Director.

Weights and measures

- Requires the Director to verify advertised prices, price representations, and point-of-sale systems to determine their accuracy, and requires the Director to perform specified actions in order to implement that requirement, including adopting rules establishing requirements governing the accuracy of advertised prices and point-of-sale systems.
- Prohibits a person from operating specified types of commercially used weighing and measuring devices without a permit to operate issued by the Director or the Director's designee.
- Authorizes only specified persons to install for use, repair, service, or place into service a commercially used weighing and measuring device.
- Requires a service person who is employed by a commercially used weighing and measuring device servicing agency to register with the Director in accordance with rules.
- Requires the Director to maintain traceability of the state standards of weights and measures to those of the International System of Units rather than those of the National Institute of Standards and Technology as in current law.
- Specifies that weights and measures that are traceable to federal prototype standards or approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology must be the state reference standards of weights and measures rather than the state primary standards as in current law.

Auctioneers

- Exempts from licensure under the Auctioneers Law sales of real or personal property conducted by means of the Internet, provided that they are not conducted in conjunction with a live auction, rather than exempting a person who sells real or personal property by means of the Internet as in current law.

Fingerprinting of 4-H volunteers

- Eliminates recently enacted law that stipulates that OSU Extension may require only individuals who become volunteers for 4-H programs on or after September 29, 2015, to be fingerprinted and to be fingerprinted only once.
- Instead prohibits OSU Extension from charging 4-H volunteers for any background checks conducted regarding the volunteers.

Agricultural pollution abatement

- Revises recently enacted provisions of law transferring responsibility for agricultural pollution abatement to the Department of Agriculture by doing both of the following:

-- Retaining the requirement that a program for coordination of such abatement recommended by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission be based on water quality standards, but eliminating the requirement that it also be based on air quality standards; and

-- Eliminating the requirement that the Director of Agriculture coordinate the efforts of state and local governmental agencies to meet the minimum state air and water quality standards relating to agricultural pollutants.

- Authorizes the Director of Environmental Protection to coordinate with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and soil and water conservation districts for the abatement of agricultural pollution rather than requiring the Director to utilize those entities in encouraging landowner abatement of agricultural pollution.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Farmland Preservation Advisory Board

The bill alters the membership of the existing Farmland Preservation Advisory Board by requiring one member to be a representative of an Ohio university rather than of the Ohio State University.¹ The member that is currently serving on the Board representing the Ohio State University must continue to serve until expiration of the

¹ R.C. 901.23(A)(3).



term for which the member was appointed. At the end of that term, a member must be appointed in accordance with the bill.²

Renewal of pesticide applicator licenses

The bill revises the deadlines related to the renewal of commercial pesticide applicator and private pesticide applicator licenses under the Pesticides Law. Under current law, if a commercial pesticide applicator licensee does not renew the applicator's license within one year of the expiration date, the licensee must take another licensure examination. If a commercial applicator licensee renews the license within one year of the expiration date, the licensee need not be re-examined unless the Director of Agriculture determines that a new examination is necessary to ensure that the licensee continues to meet the requirements of changing technology and to ensure a continuing level of competence and ability to use pesticides safely and properly. The bill changes the time period in both instances from within one year to within 180 days of the expiration date.³

The bill also applies the deadline requirement for re-examination to private pesticide applicator licensees. Additionally, it authorizes a private applicator licensee to renew the license within 180 days after the expiration date without re-examination unless the Director determines that a new examination is necessary to ensure that the holder continues to meet the requirements of changing technology and to ensure a continuing level of competence and ability to use pesticides safely and properly. Current law instead requires the Director to determine when re-examination for the renewal of licenses for private applicators is required for those purposes.⁴

Animal diseases

The bill includes diseases of concern within the scope of the Animal Diseases Law, which under continuing law addresses dangerously contagious and infectious diseases. The bill defines a disease of concern as any disease, including any foreign animal disease, or vector, that the Director of Agriculture determines may have an

² Section 3.

³ R.C. 921.12(B) and (D).

⁴ R.C. 921.12(B) and (E).

adverse impact on the animal or poultry industry or to the public health in Ohio, but that is not a disease reportable to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.⁵

Accordingly, the bill establishes or applies all of the following:

--Authority for the Director to adopt and enforce rules regarding diseases of concern, including rules that designate a disease of concern, establish animal identification and vaccination requirements, and establish procedures for the disposal of animals that died or were destroyed because of a disease of concern;⁶

--Authority for the Director or the Director's authorized representative to have access to any premises, vehicle, or means of conveyance when the Director or the Director's representative reasonably suspects an animal has been infected with or exposed to a disease of concern;⁷

--A requirement that the Director or the Director's authorized representative seal a vehicle or conveyance under certain conditions regarding infected or exposed animals;⁸

--A requirement that the Director immediately order an investigation into the existence of a disease of concern whenever the Director is notified by any person of the possibility of the existence of a disease of concern;⁹

--Authority for the Director or the Director's authorized representative to issue quarantine orders;¹⁰

--A requirement that a copy of test results or method of detection for a disease of concern conducted by a person authorized by the Department of Agriculture be admitted in court as prima-facie proof of those results;¹¹

⁵ R.C. 941.01.

⁶ R.C. 941.03, 941.09(A), and 941.14(C).

⁷ R.C. 941.04(A) and (B).

⁸ R.C. 941.04(C).

⁹ R.C. 941.07(A).

¹⁰ R.C. 941.07(B) to (H).

¹¹ R.C. 941.07(I).

--Authority for the Director to order the destruction of any animal found to be infected with or exposed to a disease of concern;¹²

--Authority for the Director to require in a written notice that the owner of a dead animal dispose of the body in a certain manner notwithstanding the Director's rules;¹³ and

--Authority for the Governor to prohibit or regulate by proclamation the importation of animals that could carry a disease of concern into Ohio.¹⁴

The bill also includes diseases of concern in the enforcement provisions of that Law.¹⁵ Specifically, it includes diseases of concern in both of the following prohibitions:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in the Animal Diseases Law or rules adopted under it, the prohibition against selling, attempting to sell, keeping with intent to sell, or otherwise transferring to another person an animal that the person knows, or has reason to know, is infected with or exposed to any dangerously contagious or infectious disease or is adulterated with the residue of a poisonous or deleterious substance governed by federal law; and

(2) The prohibition against failing to comply with the Director's order to destroy an animal that is found to be infected with or exposed to a dangerously contagious or infectious disease or adulterated with residues of poisonous or deleterious substances governed by federal law.¹⁶

The bill then specifies that the above prohibitions are strict liability offenses.¹⁷ Thus, culpability is not dependent on the mental state or intent of a person who violates one of the offenses.

¹² R.C. 941.11(A).

¹³ R.C. 941.14.(D)

¹⁴ R.C. 941.10(B).

¹⁵ R.C. 941.03 to 941.14 and 941.99, not all of which are in the bill.

¹⁶ R.C. 941.06(C) and 941.11(B)(1).

¹⁷ R.C. 941.06(D) and 941.11(B)(2).

Livestock dealers

The bill prohibits a person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of the Livestock Dealers Law or rules adopted under it from acting as an owner, supervisor, employee, contractor, volunteer, or agent of a person licensed under that Law unless specifically authorized to do so by the Director of Agriculture. The bill then specifies that this prohibition is a strict liability offense.¹⁸

Weights and measures

Price and point-of-sale verification

The bill requires the Director of Agriculture to verify advertised prices, price representations, and point-of-sale systems, as necessary, to determine both the accuracy of prices and computations and the correct use of the equipment and the accuracy of prices printed or recalled from a database if a system utilizes scanning or coding in lieu of manual entry. In order to implement that requirement, the Director must do all of the following:

(1) Employ recognized procedures such as those designated in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 130, Uniform Laws and Regulations, "Examination Procedures for Price Verification";

(2) Adopt rules establishing requirements governing the accuracy of advertised prices and point-of-sale systems and establishing requirements and procedures for the enforcement of the requirement; and

(3) Conduct necessary inspections.¹⁹

Under provisions of the Weights and Measures Law establishing penalties for violations of the rules adopted under that Law, a person who violates the rules adopted under the bill is guilty of a second degree misdemeanor on a first offense and a first degree misdemeanor on each subsequent offense within seven years after the first offense.²⁰

¹⁸ R.C. 943.02(B).

¹⁹ R.C. 1327.50(T).

²⁰ R.C. 1327.99.

Commercially used weighing and measuring devices

The bill revises an existing prohibition by prohibiting a person from operating in Ohio a commercially used weighing and measuring device that provides the quantity or cost of a final transaction and for which an application fee for a permit to operate such a device is established by the Weights and Measures Law unless the operator of the device obtains a permit to operate from the Director or the Director's designee. Current law instead prohibits a person from operating in Ohio a commercially used weighing and measuring device that provides the final quantity and final cost of a transaction and for which an application fee for a permit to operate such a device is established unless the operator of the device obtains such a permit.²¹

In addition, the bill prohibits a person from recklessly installing for use, repairing, servicing, or placing into service a commercially used weighing and measuring device unless the installation, repair, service, or placement is performed by one of the following:

- (1) A Department of Agriculture Division of Weights and Measures inspector;
- (2) A service person registered with the Department; or
- (3) A county or municipal weights and measures inspector.²²

A person who violates the prohibition is guilty of a second degree misdemeanor on a first offense and a first degree misdemeanor on each subsequent offense within seven years after the first offense.²³

The bill requires a service person who is employed by a commercially used weighing and measuring device servicing agency to register with the Director in accordance with rules adopted by the Director.²⁴ Under the bill, a service person is an individual who installs, services, repairs, reconditions, or places into service a commercially used weighing and measuring device for any type of compensation.²⁵ The bill revises the existing statute providing rulemaking authority to the Director by

²¹ R.C. 1327.501(A).

²² R.C. 1327.61(D).

²³ R.C. 1327.99.

²⁴ R.C. 1327.502.

²⁵ R.C. 1327.46(T).

requiring the Director to provide by rule for registration with the Director of service persons who are employed by commercially used weighing and measuring device servicing agencies rather than provide by rule for voluntary registration of private weighing and measuring device servicing agencies and personnel.²⁶

Under continuing law, a commercially used weighing and measuring device is a device described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44 or its supplements and revisions and any other weighing and measuring device designated by rules adopted by the Director. A commercially used weighing and measuring device includes specific types of scales and meters.²⁷

Standards

The bill requires the Director to maintain traceability of the state standards of weights and measures to those of the International System of Units rather than those of the National Institute of Standards and Technology as in current law.²⁸ In addition, the bill does both of the following:

(1) Specifies that weights and measures that are traceable to federal prototype standards or approved by the Institute must be the state reference standards of weights and measures rather than the state primary standards as in current law; and

(2) Authorizes all working standards, rather than all secondary standards as in current law, of weights and measures to be prescribed by the Director.²⁹

Auctioneers

The bill exempts from licensure under the Auctioneers Law sales of real or personal property conducted by means of the Internet, provided that they are not conducted in conjunction with a live auction. Current law instead exempts a person who sells real or personal property by means of the Internet.³⁰

²⁶ R.C. 1327.50(R).

²⁷ R.C. 1327.46(M).

²⁸ R.C. 1327.50(A).

²⁹ R.C. 1327.46(G) and (H) and 1327.48.

³⁰ R.C. 4707.02(B)(8).

The Auctioneers Law, with certain exceptions, prohibits a person from acting as an auction firm, auctioneer, apprentice auctioneer, or special auctioneer within Ohio without a license issued by the Department of Agriculture. Additionally, no auction can be conducted in Ohio except by an auctioneer licensed by the Department.³¹

Fingerprinting of 4-H volunteers

The bill eliminates recently enacted law that does both of the following:

(1) Stipulates that any policy or guideline established by OSU Extension that requires volunteers for 4-H programs to be fingerprinted must require only individuals who become volunteers for those programs on or after September 29, 2015, to be fingerprinted and to be fingerprinted only one time; and

(2) Requires OSU Extension to modify any policy or guideline regarding fingerprinting of 4-H volunteers that has been established prior to that date to comply with the above stipulation.

The bill then prohibits OSU Extension from charging volunteers for 4-H programs for any background checks conducted regarding the volunteers.³²

Agricultural pollution abatement

Under continuing law, one of the duties of the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission is to recommend to the Director of Agriculture a procedure for coordination of a program of agricultural pollution abatement. The bill retains the requirement in current law that implementation of such a program be based on water quality standards adopted under the Water Pollution Control Law. However, it eliminates the requirement that the program also be based on air quality standards adopted under the Air Pollution Control Law.

All of the above requirements were contained in, and predated, the recently enacted transfer of responsibility for agricultural pollution abatement from the Division of Soil and Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture. The bill also removes from those transferred provisions the requirement that the Director of Agriculture, through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the Department of Agriculture, coordinate the efforts of state and local governmental

³¹ R.C. 4707.02(A).

³² R.C. 3335.361.

agencies to meet the minimum state air and water quality standards relating to agricultural pollutants.

Finally, the bill authorizes the Director of Environmental Protection to coordinate with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and soil and water conservation districts for the abatement of agricultural pollution. Current law, also included in the transfer, instead requires the Director to utilize the Division and districts in encouraging landowner abatement of agricultural pollution.³³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-24-15
Reported, H. Agriculture & Rural Development	05-19-15
Passed House (93-2)	05-27-15
Reported, S. Agriculture	---

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³³ R.C. 940.02(G).

