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Synopsis of House Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House Floor.)

S.B. 37 of the 135th General Assembly

House Homeland Security

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Driver's license suspension provisions

Failure to pay a court fine or fee

- Removes the provisions of the bill that eliminate a possible driver's license suspension for failure to pay a court fine or fee, thus, retaining the possible suspension.
- Removes the program that would require the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to lift the driver's license suspension of a person whose license was suspended for failure to pay a court fine or fee. (*R.C. 1901.44, 1905.202, 1907.25, 2935.27, 2947.09, 4503.39, and 4510.22; Section 5*)

Drug abuse offenses

- For certain drug abuse offenses under the bill in which a court's authority to issue a driver's license suspension is eliminated, instead allows a court to issue a driver's license suspension, but only in circumstances in which a vehicle was used to further the commission of the offense.
- For drug possession offenses under the bill in which a court's authority to issue a driver's license suspension is eliminated (except in circumstances when an offense is a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree felony and a vehicle was used to further the commission of the offense), removes the stipulation that the drug possession offense must be a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree felony (thus, retaining the requirement that a court may only issue the suspension if a vehicle was used to further the offense. (*R.C. 2925.11, 2925.12, 2925.14, 2925.22, 2925.23, 2925.31, 2925.37, and 2929.33*))

Law enforcement and EMS training

Police chief training

- Requires the training course for chiefs of police to be conducted at locations determined by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and in a manner prescribed by the Commission.
- Sets eight hours as the maximum exemption for a chief who submits evidence of previous training or qualification in the exempted topics.
- Specifies that a “newly appointed” chief is one who has never held the full-time position before. Allows the Commission to establish and conduct police officer training courses to be offered to law enforcement officers at or above the rank of sergeant. (*R.C. 109.791 and 109.84*)

Competitive examination waiver for vacant police positions

- Allows a police department to fill a vacant position in the classified civil service without a competitive examination if the department presents evidence that competition is impracticable and the position can best be filled by a person holding a specialized certification, possessing peculiar and exceptional qualifications, or having completed the department’s police cadet training program. (*R.C. 124.11 and 124.30*)

Law enforcement training schools

- Allows the municipal police chief to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers that align with Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy standards and offer cadet qualifications, and places the prospective officers in the unclassified civil service.
- Requires a graduate from a training school program established under the bill to also satisfy current law requirements for an original appointment as a law enforcement officer to be hired by the relevant department. (*R.C. 737.061*)

Training recommendations for emergency medical services

- Establishes a process by which a person may request the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation services to add new training or continuing education topics for EMS personnel. (*R.C. 4765.163*)

Feminine hygiene products and services

- Requires county and municipal correctional facilities and state correctional institutions housing female inmates to do all of the following:
 - Provide inmates experiencing a menstrual cycle with an adequate supply of feminine hygiene products at no cost to the inmates;
 - Have a policy that allows access to feminine hygiene products while providing sanitary disposal methods;

- Provide a designated area with containers for disposal of feminine hygiene products;
- Provide inmates experiencing menstruation a minimum of one shower per day with access to hot water for washing, except when experiencing an emergency.
- Prohibits county and municipal correctional facilities and state correctional institutions housing female inmates from denying inmates access to feminine hygiene products. *(R.C. 341.261, 753.321, and 5120.631)*

Private vendor specialty license plate program

- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to enter into a contract, via a competitive selection process, with a vendor to operate a special license plate program that will operate alongside the current statutory process for establishing and issuing specialty license plates.
- Requires the vendor, under the contract, to design and market specialty license plates required to be issued under current law and new specialty license plates established under the program.
- Stipulates some of the terms of the contract between the private vendor and the Registrar.
- Limits the contract between the Registrar and the private vendor to two years, but allows the contract to be extended for additional two-year periods.
- Exempts the private vendor from an existing general prohibition against charging a fee for online motor vehicle registrations unless specified conditions exist.
- Requires the Registrar to submit each specialty license plate created under the program to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) for approval, and requires JCARR to approve or disapprove of any proposed specialty license plate.
- Prohibits the Registrar from restricting the background color, color combinations, or color alphanumeric license plate numbers of a specialty license plate proposed by the private vendor except for purposes of public safety. *(R.C. 4503.038, 4503.19, 4503.261, 4503.262, and 5502.68)*

Stopping for on-track equipment at a railroad crossing

- Requires a vehicle operator to stop for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing.
- Requires school vehicle operators, hazardous materials transporters, and certain construction equipment operators to stop, watch, and listen for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing in the same manner as for trains.
- Applies existing penalties to the requirements specified above.

- Generally, authorizes a court to order an offender to attend and successfully complete a remedial safety training or presentation regarding rail safety in lieu of a fine or jail term for failing to stop appropriately at a railroad crossing. (*R.C. 4511.62, 4511.63, and 4511.64*)