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Bill Analysis

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. K. Miller and Plummer

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SUMMARY

ATVs vs. UTVs

- Renames the “all-purpose vehicle” under current law as the “all-terrain vehicle” (ATV) to reflect the more common name and classification of those vehicles.
- Redefines ATV to specify that it has three or four wheels, a seat designed to be straddled by its operator, handlebars for steering, and is primarily designed for off-road use.
- Redefines utility vehicle (UTV) to clarify its differences from an ATV by specifying that it has at least four wheels, non-straddle seating, a steering wheel, and is primarily designed for off-road use.
- Recodifies the laws pertaining to UTVs and mini-trucks (another off-road vehicle) to place their registration, title, equipment, and use requirements with the laws pertaining to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

Vehicle registration

- Standardizes the registration requirements for UTVs, mini-trucks, ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles, with narrow exceptions to the registration requirement.
- Creates registration tax and fee exemptions for vehicles that currently are exempt from registration under the agricultural purposes exemption.
- Authorizes the owner or lessee of a UTV to purchase a decal (\$8.75/year) in order to use the UTV on Department of Natural Resources trails and similar areas, with fees going to the existing State Recreational Vehicle Fund (similar to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles under current law).
- Clarifies, consolidates, and standardizes vehicle registration requirements and procedures.

Vehicle equipment

- Requires the Director of Public Safety to adopt rules regarding equipment requirements for UTVs and mini-trucks, adding to the current requirements that apply to snowmobiles, ATVs, and off-highway motorcycles.
- Establishes additional equipment requirements for UTVs when used on public streets and highways, such as a roll cage, reflectors, rearview mirrors, and seat belts.

Vehicle use

- Authorizes local authorities to allow the use of UTVs on streets with up to a 55 mph speed limit, rather than a 35 mph speed limit as under current law.
- Retains current law authorizations for a local authority to allow or prohibit the use of a UTV or mini-truck on the public streets and highways under its jurisdiction, but does not authorize a county or township to create additional requirements or restrictions beyond state law.
- Limits current state law authorizations for using an ATV on public streets and highways to the following:
 - Traveling between farm fields;
 - When authorized by a local authority to cross a street or highway; and
 - When authorized by a local authority prior to the bill's effective date through an ordinance or resolution that was not repealed or rescinded prior to that date.
- Expressly prohibits a person from fleeing from law enforcement while operating a UTV, ATV, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, or mini-truck, or from trespassing while operating a UTV.

Vehicle title

- Authorizes (but generally does not require) the owner of a UTV, mini-truck, or snowmobile to obtain a certificate of title for the vehicle, in accordance with the current laws applicable to ATVs and off-highway motorcycles.
- Specifies that once titled, a UTV, mini-truck, or snowmobile must remain titled when its ownership is transferred.
- Makes conforming changes throughout the certificate of title laws.

Penalties

- Applies current law penalties related to vehicle registration, equipment, use, and title to the recodification of UTVs and mini-trucks.

Effective date

- Delays the effective date of the bill's provisions for six months.

- Authorizes the Registrar to continue to issue license plates that display “all-purpose vehicle” or “APV” printed on them until the current supply is depleted.
- Authorizes owners to continue to use license plates that display “all-purpose vehicle” or “APV” until both the Registrar’s supply is depleted and the person’s current license plate is lost, stolen, mutilated, destroyed, or is otherwise required to be replaced.

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DETAILED ANALYSIS



ATVs vs. UTVs

Under current law, certificate of title and registration requirements vary between many of the vehicles used for recreational and specialty work purposes. For example, a snowmobile generally must be registered, but not titled; a utility vehicle must be registered and titled *only*

when a local political subdivision authorizes its use on highways; while an all-purpose vehicle and an off-highway motorcycle must be both registered and titled in most circumstances.¹

Additionally, Ohio is the only state that uses the term “all-purpose vehicle” to refer to a vehicle more commonly known as an “all-terrain vehicle” (ATV). The bill renames the vehicle under Ohio law to reflect the more common name and classification of those vehicles. For consistency, this analysis will refer to these vehicles as ATVs.² While the term “all-purpose vehicle” under current law also includes “mini-bikes” and “trail bikes,” these bikes also fit within the current law definition of “off-highway motorcycle.” Thus, the bill does not alter the laws applicable to mini-bikes or trail bikes.³

Relatedly, the bill redefines an ATV and a utility vehicle (UTV), which are similar vehicles that are both designed primarily for off-road use, to clarify their differences. The following table highlights those differences.

ATV vs UTV		
Characteristic	ATV ⁴	UTV ⁵
Wheels	3 or 4	4 or more
Seating	Straddle	Non-straddle (Bucket)
Steering	Handlebars	Steering wheel
General appearance		

To clarify and standardize the laws for many of the off-road recreational and specialty work vehicles, the bill recodifies the laws pertaining to UTVs and mini-trucks (another off-road vehicle) to place their registration, title, equipment, and use requirements within the laws currently pertaining to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles (R.C. Chapter 4519).

¹ R.C. 4511.215, 4519.02, 4519.52, and 4519.66.

² R.C. 4519.01, conforming changes in numerous other sections.

³ R.C. 4519.01(I).

⁴ R.C. 4519.01(B).

⁵ R.C. 4501.01(VV).

Vehicle registration

The bill clarifies, consolidates, and standardizes vehicle registration requirements for ATVs, mini-trucks, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, and UTVs. In doing so, it also streamlines a number of the standard motor vehicle registration provisions.⁶

In general, if an ATV, mini-truck, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, or UTV will be operated in Ohio (especially on public roads and highways), the owner must register that vehicle. There are several exemptions to the registration requirement, as noted in the following table.

Registration exemptions ⁷	
Vehicle type	Exemption
ATV, mini-truck, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, UTV	Operated <i>exclusively</i> on the vehicle owner's property or property where the owner has a contractual right. (Current law either specifies or implies this for some of the vehicles, but not expressly to all of them.)
ATV, mini-truck, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, UTV	Owner is a resident of another state and has properly registered that vehicle in the other state. (This does not apply to an owner whose vehicle is registered in a state that does not have a registration law similar to Ohio.) Owner is the federal government, a state government, or political subdivision thereof. (Current law applies these exemptions solely to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles.)
Snowmobile (without metal studded tracks)	When used on state highways located on a Lake Erie island between November 1 and April 30, provided the owner and operator meet other conditions. (This exemption exists in current law, but the bill clarifies that all other uses of an unregistered snowmobile must also be exempt from registration.)

Under current law, the owner of an ATV is exempt from registering the vehicle when:

- Similar to snowmobiles above, it is used on state highways located on a Lake Erie island between November 1 and April 30 (if the owner and operator meet other conditions); or

⁶ R.C. 4501.13, 4503.01, 4503.04, 4503.10, 4503.191, 4519.02, 4519.03, 4519.04, 4519.041, and conforming changes.

⁷ R.C. 4519.02(B), (C), (D), and (E).

- It is used primarily for agricultural purposes and the owner qualifies for the current agricultural use valuation (CAUV) tax credit, unless they are used on any public land, trail, or right-of-way.⁸

The bill removes these exemptions from registration. Thus, under the bill, the owner of an ATV that formerly met the requirements of either of the two exemptions now must register those vehicles, unless the ATV is used exclusively on the owner's property or property where the owner has a contractual right. However, an owner who is required to register and qualifies for the CAUV tax credit is exempt from paying the registration taxes and fees under the bill (see "**Registration details**" below).

Registration procedures

An owner registering any of these vehicles must follow the typical registration procedures, including:

1. Filing an application for registration or registration renewal with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or a deputy registrar that includes a brief description of the vehicle (year, make, model, and VIN) and the contact information of the owner;
2. Signing a statement that the vehicle complies with all the equipment laws relevant to that vehicle (e.g., that the UTV meets the UTV equipment requirements);
3. Paying any registration taxes and fees (or providing documentary evidence showing the owner qualifies for the CAUV tax credit); and
4. Providing proof of ownership the first time the owner registers the vehicle (through a physical certificate or memorandum of title, an electronic certificate of title, electronic confirmation by the Registrar or deputy registrar of ownership, or bill of sale or other affidavit of ownership for an untitled vehicle).

The Registrar or deputy registrar must refuse any application when the application is not in proper form or proof of ownership is required but not submitted.⁹

Registration details

While the general procedures for registration mostly are consistent for these vehicles, some of the details of registration vary between the types of vehicle. The following table summarizes those differences.

⁸ R.C. 4519.02(B) and 4519.41(F).

⁹ R.C. 4519.03 and 4519.031.

Registration details ¹⁰			
Vehicle	Renewal	Decal or license plate	Taxes and fees
All-terrain vehicle (Same as current law)	Every 3 years	License plate	<p>\$36.25 total</p> <p>\$26.25 – Registration fee, deposited into the State Recreational Vehicle Fund</p> <p>\$5 – BMV fee</p> <p>\$5 – Deputy registrar fee</p>
Off-highway motorcycle Snowmobile (Same as current law)	Every 3 years	Decal	<p>\$36.25 total</p> <p>\$26.25 – Registration fee, deposited into the State Recreational Vehicle Fund</p> <p>\$5 – BMV fee</p> <p>\$5 – Deputy registrar fee</p>
Mini-truck Utility vehicle (Same as current law, but within a new R.C. Chapter)	Annual	License plate	<p>\$26 total</p> <p>\$10 – Registration tax, deposited into the Auto Registration Distribution Fund</p> <p>\$11 – BMV fee</p> <p>\$5 – Deputy registrar fee</p>

The bill authorizes the owner of a mini-truck or UTV that is subject to an annual renewal cycle to register the vehicle for multiple years, up to five years. The multi-year registration is similar to the multi-year registration available to other motor vehicles.¹¹ Concerning registration taxes and fees, the bill also does all of the following:

- Extends the waiver of registration taxes and fees to any ATV, mini-truck, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, or UTV owned or leased by the state, a political subdivision, or a volunteer organization that uses the vehicles for emergency purposes;
- Clarifies that these vehicles are not subject to local motor vehicle taxes; and

¹⁰ R.C. 4519.03, 4519.04, and 4519.11.

¹¹ R.C. 4503.038 and 4519.041; R.C. 4503.103, not in the bill.

- Expressly waives registration taxes and fees for an ATV, a mini-truck, or utility vehicle that is used primarily for agricultural purposes, when the owner qualifies for the CAUV tax credit.¹²

DNR trail decal

The bill requires a UTV owner who intends to use the UTV on the Department of Natural Resource's trails and other similar areas open to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, and UTVs to pay an annual \$8.75 fee. The fee goes to the existing State Recreational Vehicle Fund, similar to the registration fees for ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles. After payment, the Registrar or deputy registrar issues the owner a decal sticker (similar to the registration decal issued to the other vehicles) that verifies payment of the fee and authorizes the owner to use the applicable trails.¹³ Similar to UTV registration, an owner can purchase a multi-year (up to five years) decal.¹⁴

Miscellaneous registration provisions

The bill applies the various miscellaneous registration provisions currently applicable to ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles to mini-trucks and UTVs. Those provisions include:

1. Surrendering a certificate of registration when the vehicle is destroyed or disposed;
2. Transferring a certificate of registration when the vehicle is sold or transferred;
3. Updating a certificate of registration when the owner's address or other information changes;
4. Receiving a duplicate certificate of registration when the original is lost, mutilated, or destroyed;
5. Requiring an owner/operator from another state without registration requirements for the particular vehicle to obtain a temporary operating permit; and
6. Temporary motor vehicle license registration requirements to cover the vehicle until it is officially registered and titled.¹⁵

Vehicle equipment

Current law requires the Director of Public Safety to adopt rules related to ATV, off-highway motorcycle, and snowmobile vehicle equipment. Those rules relate to headlights, taillights, brakes, mufflers, and any other necessary equipment for the vehicles. Generally, no person may operate, sell, or rent the specified vehicles unless the vehicle meets the equipment requirements. Additionally, dealers that rent, lease, or otherwise furnish the vehicles for hire

¹² R.C. 4504.01 and 4519.08.

¹³ R.C. 4519.04(C)(4).

¹⁴ R.C. 4519.041.

¹⁵ R.C. 4519.05, 4519.09, and 4519.10.

must maintain the vehicle in safe operating condition. The bill applies these same provisions to mini-trucks and UTVs and requires the Director to adopt rules related to their equipment.¹⁶

It also requires the Director to adopt additional safety equipment specifications for UTVs governing all of the following:

1. A roll cage;
2. Two red reflectors;
3. A rearview mirror;
4. Either a windshield, or if no windshield, a requirement that the operator of the vehicle must wear safety glasses or another protective eye device; and
5. Occupant restraining devices (seat belts) for the operator and all passengers.¹⁷

The bill authorizes a local law enforcement agency that conducts a vehicle inspection on any of these vehicles (which are generally required before using them on public streets and highways) to charge a one-time fee of \$10 to offset the costs to the agency.¹⁸

Seat belts

Related to seat belt requirements, the bill makes failure to wear a seat belt in a UTV a primary offense (i.e., a police officer may pull over and ticket the operator and occupants of the vehicle for failure to properly wear the seat belt without the occurrence of another traffic offense). Additionally, the operator must ensure that the number of occupants in the UTV does not exceed the number of seat belts, so that every person can properly wear them. Under current law, both of the above offenses are secondary offenses when operating a motor vehicle (i.e., another offense must also occur in order to pull over and ticket the operator or occupants). Under the bill, failure to wear the required seat belt or allowing the total number occupants to exceed the number of seat belts is a \$30 fine. Under current law, the fine for an operator seat belt violation is also \$30, but it is \$20 for a passenger seat belt violation. The fines for all violations are deposited into the Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Fund, as under current law.¹⁹

Vehicle operation

Current law specifies when and where a person may operate an ATV, mini-truck, off-highway motorcycle, snowmobile, or UTV in Ohio. The bill retains many of those current law authorizations and prohibitions; however, it moves the provisions into the Chapter of the Revised Code that pertains to off-road vehicles (R.C. Chapter 4519).

¹⁶ R.C. 4519.20, 4519.21, 4519.22, 4519.45, and 4519.47.

¹⁷ R.C. 4519.20(A)(5).

¹⁸ R.C. 4513.02.

¹⁹ R.C. 4513.263 and 4519.23.

General authorizations and prohibitions

The bill consolidates and clarifies the authorizations and prohibitions related to ATVs, mini-trucks, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, and UTVs. Specifically, a person *may* operate any of these vehicles, even without local authorization, in the following locations and circumstances:

1. On public streets or highways, when authorized by the Director of Public Safety, for emergency travel in accordance with the Director's authorization;
2. Exclusively on the operator's property or property on which the operator has a contractual right; and
3. On other private property, provided the operator has the property owner's permission or permission from another person who has a right of possession to the property.²⁰

Similarly, a person *may not* operate any of these vehicles on any of the following:

1. On private property without permission;
2. On any state-owned land or water, unless authorized to do so;
3. On an operating railroad's tracks or right-of-ways; and
4. On a freeway.

Additionally, the bill clarifies that, unless authorized by another statute or by the Department of Natural Resources' rules, a person *may not* operate these vehicles while doing either of the following:

1. Transporting a firearm, bow, or other implement for hunting, unless the firearm, bow, or implement is unloaded and securely encased; or
2. Chasing, pursuing, capturing, or killing an animal or wildfowl.

Currently, there are special permits available for a person with a mobility impairment to use an ATV or similar motor vehicle for hunting. The bill does not affect those permits and permissions.²¹

Local regulations

Under current law, local authorities (i.e., municipal corporations, townships, and counties) have broad discretion to regulate any of these vehicles (either in allowing or prohibiting their use) on local streets and highways. A local authority that authorizes a particular vehicle, however, must require that vehicle to meet all state equipment, title, and registration requirements and notify the Director of Public Safety of the authorization.

Additionally, under current law, the local authority also may adopt additional and more stringent ordinances, resolutions, or regulations. The bill, however, removes that specific authority for townships and counties. However, with the exception of ATVs (see below), a county

²⁰ R.C. 4519.40.

²¹ R.C. 4519.40; R.C. 1533.103 and 2923.16, not in the bill.

(through the local board of county commissioners) may either allow or prohibit the vehicles on their local county or township roads, as well as generally regulate their operation, but may not adopt resolutions or regulations that are different from the state law relating to that particular vehicle. A township must obtain the approval of the board of county commissioners in order to authorize or prohibit the vehicles on their local roads and cannot do so on their own authority.²²

Similarly, under current law and under the bill, the Director of Natural Resources and a board of park commissioners may adopt rules allowing, prohibiting, or otherwise regulating the operation of these vehicles on the lands and waters under their jurisdiction.²³

Specific operation laws

Although the bill does not change the majority of the operation laws related to ATVs, mini-trucks, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, and UTVs – it simply recodifies them – there are a few exceptions.

Mini-trucks

While local authorization is generally required for a person to operate a mini-truck under current law, a person may operate one in two general locations without local authorization, specifically:

1. On a person's private farm, if the owner qualifies for the CAUV tax credit, and to drive from one farm field to another farm field; and
2. On the property owned or leased by a mini-truck retail dealer.

Mini-trucks are unique among the unconventional vehicles in that, under current law, they do not have a general authorization for use on private property, except as stated above. However, the bill broadens that authorization to allow any person to operate them on private property and any person to use them on a public street or highway to travel from farm field to farm field without local authorization.²⁴

Utility vehicles

Although generally not authorized for use on state highways outside a municipal corporation, the bill creates a limited authorization for utility vehicles to use a state highway. Specifically, the operator of a utility vehicle may travel briefly along a state highway (with a speed limit of 55 mph or less and that is not a freeway), provided the operator enters the state highway from a locally authorized street or highway and then exits at the next intersecting street or highway. The authorization does not apply if the next intersecting street or highway is not a locally authorized street or highway. The bill also authorizes use of UTVs on local highways with speed limits up to 55 mph, rather than only up to 35 mph as under current law.

²² R.C. 4511.214, 4511.215 (repealed by the bill), 4511.216 (repealed by the bill), 4519.01(P), 4519.401, 4519.402, 4519.403, 4519.41, and 4519.48.

²³ R.C. 4519.42 and 4519.43.

²⁴ R.C. 4519.40(C)(1) and 4519.401.

Additionally, under current law, unchanged by the bill, a state park or political subdivision employee or volunteer may operate a utility vehicle exclusively within the boundaries of a state park or political subdivision park in order to operate or maintain the park facilities.²⁵

ATVs and snowmobiles

The bill limits many of the current law authorizations for ATVs. Current law treats ATVs similarly to snowmobiles. A person may operate either vehicle on county and township roads (when authorized) and alongside any nonstate highway (regardless of authorization). Additionally, both have a limited authorization for use on a state highway between November 1 and April 30 on the Lake Erie islands. The bill removes these authorizations for ATVs, but retains them for snowmobiles.

While the bill generally prohibits ATVs on public streets and highways, it allows for three narrow exceptions:

1. Travelling from one farm field to another;
2. Crossing a public street or highway, when locally authorized to do so; and
3. Operating on a public street or highway under the jurisdiction of a local authority, that prior to the bill's effective date, authorized the operation of ATVs on its streets and highways and did not repeal or rescind that authorization prior to the bill's effective date.

If the local authority later repeals or rescinds the authorizing ordinance or resolution, the authorization for the ATV use on those public streets and highways ceases.²⁶

Trespass and fleeing a police officer

Under current law, a person may not trespass on another person's property without permission. If a person trespasses while operating a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or ATV, the court must impose a fine that is twice the usual amount. Additionally, if the person was convicted of or pled guilty to criminal trespass previously while using the vehicle, the court may impound the vehicle for at least 60 days. The bill applies the same double fine and potential vehicle impoundment to UTVs as well.²⁷

Additionally, under current law, a person may not operate a motor vehicle to elude or flee a police officer. It appears that this prohibition may apply to ATVs and off-highway motorcycles. However, the bill clarifies that the prohibition applies to those vehicles, UTVs, and mini-trucks. It applies the current penalties (a first degree misdemeanor up to a third degree felony and license suspension, depending on the circumstances) for the offense.²⁸

²⁵ R.C. 4511.214 and 4519.402.

²⁶ R.C. 4519.403 and 4519.41.

²⁷ R.C. 2911.21 and 4519.47.

²⁸ RC. 2921.331.

Vehicle title

Current law requires the owner of an ATV or off-highway motorcycle to obtain a certificate of title. The bill authorizes, but generally does not require, the owner of a mini-truck, snowmobile, or UTV to obtain a certificate of title for that vehicle. However, a certificate of title can be helpful for owners in obtaining financing for a vehicle, proving ownership of the vehicle, or transferring the vehicle outside of probate after death. If a mini-truck, snowmobile, or UTV owner wishes to obtain a certificate of title, the processes currently applicable to ATVs and off-highway motorcycles apply to the other vehicles as well.²⁹

The caveat to a certificate of title being permissive, but not required, for a mini-truck, snowmobile, or UTV is if one owner decides to title the vehicle. In that case, all future owners of the vehicle must also obtain a certificate of title for that vehicle. Essentially, once titled, always titled.³⁰

Obtaining a certificate of title

In order to obtain a certificate of title, the owner of the vehicle (or a dealer on behalf of the owner/purchaser of the vehicle) must file a standard application with the clerk of any court of common pleas. If a certificate of title does not currently exist for the vehicle, proof of ownership must accompany the application. Proof of ownership can consist of a manufacturer's or importer's certificate, a sworn statement of ownership, a bill of sale, or other evidence as authorized by the Registrar by rule.³¹ Certificates of title cost \$15 generally, or \$5 for a certificate of title with no security interest issued to a licensed motor vehicle dealer for resale, or \$5 for a memorandum certificate of title or nonnegotiable evidence of ownership.³²

If there has been a break in the chain of title, the current vehicle owner may submit an affidavit and evidence of ownership to the Registrar. If the Registrar finds the evidence sufficient, the Registrar may authorize the clerk to issue a certificate of title. For example, Jeff sells a UTV to Amanda with a certificate of title. Amanda later sells the UTV to Larry, but without a certificate of title. Larry wants to sell the UTV to Bill, but needs a certificate of title to do so. The affidavit and evidence of ownership process allows him to obtain that title.³³

Other certificate of title provisions

The bill amends the following provisions of law related to certificates of title that currently apply only to ATVs and off-highway motorcycles so that the provisions also apply to mini-trucks, snowmobiles, and UTVs:

²⁹ R.C. 4519.52(B)(1).

³⁰ R.C. 4519.52(B)(2).

³¹ R.C. 4519.55.

³² R.C. 4519.59.

³³ R.C. 4519.60.

Certificate of title laws	
R.C. Number	Description
R.C. 2131.12 and 2131.13	Authorizes two or more people to own the vehicle as joint owners with right of survivorship and to transfer the vehicle through a transfer on death designation on the title.
R.C. 4505.09, 4519.511, and 4519.512	Specifies that the Automated Title Processing System includes the additional vehicle titles and that references to “certificate of title” include the title records for the additional vehicles in the System as well as physical certificates of title.
R.C. 4519.521	Authorizes transferring title to the vehicle to an electronic dealer without a physical certificate of title if a physical certificate was never issued previously. Requires a physical certificate of title to sell a previously titled vehicle to a person who is not an electronic dealer.
R.C. 4505.06, 4519.55, 4519.551, and 4519.56	Specifies the application requirements, including the information on the application, for certificates of title.
R.C. 4519.57 and 4519.58	Specifies the physical appearance and information included on the certificate of title and the record retention policy for the clerks.
R.C. 4519.59	Specifies the fees required for issuance of a certificate of title and distribution of those fees. Makes the fees and distribution consistent for motor vehicles and these vehicles.
R.C. 4519.60	Specifies the procedures for obtaining a certificate of title when ownership to the vehicle transfers by operation of law (e.g., inheritance, bankruptcy, replevin, or sale without a title).
R.C. 4519.61 and 4505.11	Specifies the procedures for obtaining a cancellation of a certificate of title or a salvage or rebuilt salvage certificate of title.
R.C. 4519.62	Specifies the procedures for obtaining a duplicate certificate of title when the original is lost or destroyed.
R.C. 4519.63 and 4519.631	Specifies the procedures and fees for requesting title information, either through public records requests or electronically.
R.C. 4519.66 and 4519.67	Specifies the prohibitions and related penalties related to certificates of title.
R.C. 4519.68	Relates to notations about security interests.

Certificate of title laws	
R.C. Number	Description
R.C. 4519.69	Requires a physical inspection certificate for vehicles originally titled in another state.
R.C. 4519.70	Requires parent or other guardian consent for a minor to purchase or otherwise acquire title to the additional vehicles.

Penalties

The bill retains all current law penalties related to the titling, registration, and equipment of an ATV, off-highway motorcycle, and snowmobile and applies those penalties to the other vehicles. It retains the penalties for violations of the laws related to when and where the various vehicles may be used. Many of those laws are predicate motor vehicle offenses: thus, a minor misdemeanor on a first offense within a year, but increasing to a fourth or third degree misdemeanor for prior, similar traffic offenses within the year.³⁴

Effective dates

The bill makes its provisions effective six months after the date it would otherwise be effective (91 days after enactment), in order to give the various public agencies time to prepare for its changes. Additionally, it allows the Registrar to continue to issue preprinted license plates that display the words “all-purpose vehicle” or “APV” until that supply of plates is depleted. Similarly, a person may continue to use a license plate with the words “all-purpose vehicle” or “APV” until both of the following occur:

1. The Registrar’s supply of the preprinted plates is depleted; and
2. The person’s current license plate is lost, stolen, mutilated, destroyed, or the person otherwise is required or desires to replace the license plate.³⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-25-25

ANHB0199IN-136/ks

³⁴ R.C. 4511.01, 4519.02, 4519.40, 4519.52, 4519.66, 4519.67, 4519.99, and other conforming changes.

³⁵ Sections 4 and 5.