

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 490

Representatives Greenspan, Sheehy

A BILL

To amend section 4503.10 of the Revised Code to 1
provide for the proration of the plug-in 2
electric and hybrid motor vehicle registration 3
fees. 4

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

Section 1. That section 4503.10 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4503.10. (A) The owner of every snowmobile, off- 7
highway motorcycle, and all-purpose vehicle required to be 8
registered under section 4519.02 of the Revised Code shall file 9
an application for registration under section 4519.03 of the 10
Revised Code. The owner of a motor vehicle, other than a 11
snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, that 12
is not designed and constructed by the manufacturer for 13
operation on a street or highway may not register it under this 14
chapter except upon certification of inspection pursuant to 15
section 4513.02 of the Revised Code by the sheriff, or the chief 16
of police of the municipal corporation or township, with 17
jurisdiction over the political subdivision in which the owner 18
of the motor vehicle resides. Except as provided in section 19

4503.103 of the Revised Code, every owner of every other motor 20
vehicle not previously described in this section and every 21
person mentioned as owner in the last certificate of title of a 22
motor vehicle that is operated or driven upon the public roads 23
or highways shall cause to be filed each year, by mail or 24
otherwise, in the office of the registrar of motor vehicles or a 25
deputy registrar, a written or electronic application or a 26
preprinted registration renewal notice issued under section 27
4503.102 of the Revised Code, the form of which shall be 28
prescribed by the registrar, for registration for the following 29
registration year, which shall begin on the first day of January 30
of every calendar year and end on the thirty-first day of 31
December in the same year. Applications for registration and 32
registration renewal notices shall be filed at the times 33
established by the registrar pursuant to section 4503.101 of the 34
Revised Code. A motor vehicle owner also may elect to apply for 35
or renew a motor vehicle registration by electronic means using 36
electronic signature in accordance with rules adopted by the 37
registrar. Except as provided in division (J) of this section, 38
applications for registration shall be made on blanks furnished 39
by the registrar for that purpose, containing the following 40
information: 41

(1) A brief description of the motor vehicle to be 42
registered, including the year, make, model, and vehicle 43
identification number, and, in the case of commercial cars, the 44
gross weight of the vehicle fully equipped computed in the 45
manner prescribed in section 4503.08 of the Revised Code; 46

(2) The name and residence address of the owner, and the 47
township and municipal corporation in which the owner resides; 48

(3) The district of registration, which shall be 49

determined as follows: 50

(a) In case the motor vehicle to be registered is used for 51
hire or principally in connection with any established business 52
or branch business, conducted at a particular place, the 53
district of registration is the municipal corporation in which 54
that place is located or, if not located in any municipal 55
corporation, the county and township in which that place is 56
located. 57

(b) In case the vehicle is not so used, the district of 58
registration is the municipal corporation or county in which the 59
owner resides at the time of making the application. 60

(4) Whether the motor vehicle is a new or used motor 61
vehicle; 62

(5) The date of purchase of the motor vehicle; 63

(6) Whether the fees required to be paid for the 64
registration or transfer of the motor vehicle, during the 65
preceding registration year and during the preceding period of 66
the current registration year, have been paid. Each application 67
for registration shall be signed by the owner, either manually 68
or by electronic signature, or pursuant to obtaining a limited 69
power of attorney authorized by the registrar for registration, 70
or other document authorizing such signature. If the owner 71
elects to apply for or renew the motor vehicle registration with 72
the registrar by electronic means, the owner's manual signature 73
is not required. 74

(7) The owner's social security number, driver's license 75
number, or state identification number, or, where a motor 76
vehicle to be registered is used for hire or principally in 77
connection with any established business, the owner's federal 78

taxpayer identification number. The bureau of motor vehicles 79
shall retain in its records all social security numbers provided 80
under this section, but the bureau shall not place social 81
security numbers on motor vehicle certificates of registration. 82

(B) Except as otherwise provided in this division, each 83
time an applicant first registers a motor vehicle in the 84
applicant's name, the applicant shall present for inspection a 85
physical certificate of title or memorandum certificate showing 86
title to the motor vehicle to be registered in the name of the 87
applicant if a physical certificate of title or memorandum 88
certificate has been issued by a clerk of a court of common 89
pleas. If, under sections 4505.021, 4505.06, and 4505.08 of the 90
Revised Code, a clerk instead has issued an electronic 91
certificate of title for the applicant's motor vehicle, that 92
certificate may be presented for inspection at the time of first 93
registration in a manner prescribed by rules adopted by the 94
registrar. An applicant is not required to present a certificate 95
of title to an electronic motor vehicle dealer acting as a 96
limited authority deputy registrar in accordance with rules 97
adopted by the registrar. When a motor vehicle inspection and 98
maintenance program is in effect under section 3704.14 of the 99
Revised Code and rules adopted under it, each application for 100
registration for a vehicle required to be inspected under that 101
section and those rules shall be accompanied by an inspection 102
certificate for the motor vehicle issued in accordance with that 103
section. The application shall be refused if any of the 104
following applies: 105

(1) The application is not in proper form. 106

(2) The application is prohibited from being accepted by 107
division (D) of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 108

2937.221, division (A) of section 4503.13, division (B) of 109
section 4510.22, or division (B)(1) of section 4521.10 of the 110
Revised Code. 111

(3) A certificate of title or memorandum certificate of 112
title is required but does not accompany the application or, in 113
the case of an electronic certificate of title, is required but 114
is not presented in a manner prescribed by the registrar's 115
rules. 116

(4) All registration and transfer fees for the motor 117
vehicle, for the preceding year or the preceding period of the 118
current registration year, have not been paid. 119

(5) The owner or lessee does not have an inspection 120
certificate for the motor vehicle as provided in section 3704.14 121
of the Revised Code, and rules adopted under it, if that section 122
is applicable. 123

This section does not require the payment of license or 124
registration taxes on a motor vehicle for any preceding year, or 125
for any preceding period of a year, if the motor vehicle was not 126
taxable for that preceding year or period under sections 127
4503.02, 4503.04, 4503.11, 4503.12, and 4503.16 or Chapter 4504. 128
of the Revised Code. When a certificate of registration is 129
issued upon the first registration of a motor vehicle by or on 130
behalf of the owner, the official issuing the certificate shall 131
indicate the issuance with a stamp on the certificate of title 132
or memorandum certificate or, in the case of an electronic 133
certificate of title, an electronic stamp or other notation as 134
specified in rules adopted by the registrar, and with a stamp on 135
the inspection certificate for the motor vehicle, if any. The 136
official also shall indicate, by a stamp or by other means the 137
registrar prescribes, on the registration certificate issued 138

upon the first registration of a motor vehicle by or on behalf 139
of the owner the odometer reading of the motor vehicle as shown 140
in the odometer statement included in or attached to the 141
certificate of title. Upon each subsequent registration of the 142
motor vehicle by or on behalf of the same owner, the official 143
also shall so indicate the odometer reading of the motor vehicle 144
as shown on the immediately preceding certificate of 145
registration. 146

The registrar shall include in the permanent registration 147
record of any vehicle required to be inspected under section 148
3704.14 of the Revised Code the inspection certificate number 149
from the inspection certificate that is presented at the time of 150
registration of the vehicle as required under this division. 151

(C) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (1) of 152
this section, the registrar and each deputy registrar shall 153
collect an additional fee of eleven dollars for each application 154
for registration and registration renewal received. For vehicles 155
specified in divisions (A) (1) to (21) of section 4503.042 of the 156
Revised Code, the registrar and deputy registrar shall collect 157
an additional fee of thirty dollars for each application for 158
registration and registration renewal received. No additional 159
fee shall be charged for vehicles registered under section 160
4503.65 of the Revised Code. The additional fee is for the 161
purpose of defraying the department of public safety's costs 162
associated with the administration and enforcement of the motor 163
vehicle and traffic laws of Ohio. Each deputy registrar shall 164
transmit the fees collected under divisions (C) (1), (3), and (4) 165
of this section in the time and manner provided in this section. 166
The registrar shall deposit all moneys received under division 167
(C) (1) of this section into the public safety - highway purposes 168
fund established in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code. 169

(2) In addition, a charge of twenty-five cents shall be 170
made for each reflectorized safety license plate issued, and a 171
single charge of twenty-five cents shall be made for each county 172
identification sticker or each set of county identification 173
stickers issued, as the case may be, to cover the cost of 174
producing the license plates and stickers, including material, 175
manufacturing, and administrative costs. Those fees shall be in 176
addition to the license tax. If the total cost of producing the 177
plates is less than twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total 178
cost of producing the stickers is less than twenty-five cents 179
per sticker or per set issued, any excess moneys accruing from 180
the fees shall be distributed in the same manner as provided by 181
section 4501.04 of the Revised Code for the distribution of 182
license tax moneys. If the total cost of producing the plates 183
exceeds twenty-five cents per plate, or if the total cost of 184
producing the stickers exceeds twenty-five cents per sticker or 185
per set issued, the difference shall be paid from the license 186
tax moneys collected pursuant to section 4503.02 of the Revised 187
Code. 188

(3) The registrar and each deputy registrar shall collect 189
an additional fee of two hundred dollars for each application 190
for registration or registration renewal received for any plug- 191
in electric motor vehicle. The fee shall be prorated based on 192
the number of months for which the plug-in electric motor 193
vehicle is registered. The registrar shall transmit all money 194
arising from the fee imposed by division (C) (3) of this section 195
to the treasurer of state for distribution in accordance with 196
division (E) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code, subject to 197
division (D) of section 5735.05 of the Revised Code. 198

(4) The registrar and each deputy registrar shall collect 199
an additional fee of one hundred dollars for each application 200

for registration or registration renewal received for any hybrid 201
motor vehicle. The fee shall be prorated based on the number of 202
months for which the hybrid motor vehicle is registered. The 203
registrar shall transmit all money arising from the fee imposed 204
by division (C) (4) of this section to the treasurer of state for 205
distribution in accordance with division (E) of section 5735.051 206
of the Revised Code, subject to division (D) of section 5735.05 207
of the Revised Code. 208

The fees established under divisions (C) (3) and (4) of 209
this section shall not be imposed until January 1, 2020. 210

(D) Each deputy registrar shall be allowed a fee equal to 211
the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised 212
Code for each application for registration and registration 213
renewal notice the deputy registrar receives, which shall be for 214
the purpose of compensating the deputy registrar for the deputy 215
registrar's services, and such office and rental expenses, as 216
may be necessary for the proper discharge of the deputy 217
registrar's duties in the receiving of applications and renewal 218
notices and the issuing of registrations. 219

(E) Upon the certification of the registrar, the county 220
sheriff or local police officials shall recover license plates 221
erroneously or fraudulently issued. 222

(F) Each deputy registrar, upon receipt of any application 223
for registration or registration renewal notice, together with 224
the license fee and any local motor vehicle license tax levied 225
pursuant to Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, shall transmit 226
that fee and tax, if any, in the manner provided in this 227
section, together with the original and duplicate copy of the 228
application, to the registrar. The registrar, subject to the 229
approval of the director of public safety, may deposit the funds 230

collected by those deputies in a local bank or depository to the 231
credit of the "state of Ohio, bureau of motor vehicles." Where a 232
local bank or depository has been designated by the registrar, 233
each deputy registrar shall deposit all moneys collected by the 234
deputy registrar into that bank or depository not more than one 235
business day after their collection and shall make reports to 236
the registrar of the amounts so deposited, together with any 237
other information, some of which may be prescribed by the 238
treasurer of state, as the registrar may require and as 239
prescribed by the registrar by rule. The registrar, within three 240
days after receipt of notification of the deposit of funds by a 241
deputy registrar in a local bank or depository, shall draw on 242
that account in favor of the treasurer of state. The registrar, 243
subject to the approval of the director and the treasurer of 244
state, may make reasonable rules necessary for the prompt 245
transmittal of fees and for safeguarding the interests of the 246
state and of counties, townships, municipal corporations, and 247
transportation improvement districts levying local motor vehicle 248
license taxes. The registrar may pay service charges usually 249
collected by banks and depositories for such service. If deputy 250
registrars are located in communities where banking facilities 251
are not available, they shall transmit the fees forthwith, by 252
money order or otherwise, as the registrar, by rule approved by 253
the director and the treasurer of state, may prescribe. The 254
registrar may pay the usual and customary fees for such service. 255

(G) This section does not prevent any person from making 256
an application for a motor vehicle license directly to the 257
registrar by mail, by electronic means, or in person at any of 258
the registrar's offices, upon payment of a service fee equal to 259
the amount established under section 4503.038 of the Revised 260
Code for each application. 261

(H) No person shall make a false statement as to the 262
district of registration in an application required by division 263
(A) of this section. Violation of this division is falsification 264
under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and punishable as 265
specified in that section. 266

(I) (1) Where applicable, the requirements of division (B) 267
of this section relating to the presentation of an inspection 268
certificate issued under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and 269
rules adopted under it for a motor vehicle, the refusal of a 270
license for failure to present an inspection certificate, and 271
the stamping of the inspection certificate by the official 272
issuing the certificate of registration apply to the 273
registration of and issuance of license plates for a motor 274
vehicle under sections 4503.102, 4503.12, 4503.14, 4503.15, 275
4503.16, 4503.171, 4503.172, 4503.19, 4503.40, 4503.41, 4503.42, 276
4503.43, 4503.44, 4503.46, 4503.47, and 4503.51 of the Revised 277
Code. 278

(2) (a) The registrar shall adopt rules ensuring that each 279
owner registering a motor vehicle in a county where a motor 280
vehicle inspection and maintenance program is in effect under 281
section 3704.14 of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it 282
receives information about the requirements established in that 283
section and those rules and about the need in those counties to 284
present an inspection certificate with an application for 285
registration or preregistration. 286

(b) Upon request, the registrar shall provide the director 287
of environmental protection, or any person that has been awarded 288
a contract under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, an on-line 289
computer data link to registration information for all passenger 290
cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars that are 291

subject to that section. The registrar also shall provide to the 292
director of environmental protection a magnetic data tape 293
containing registration information regarding passenger cars, 294
noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars for which a 295
multi-year registration is in effect under section 4503.103 of 296
the Revised Code or rules adopted under it, including, without 297
limitation, the date of issuance of the multi-year registration, 298
the registration deadline established under rules adopted under 299
section 4503.101 of the Revised Code that was applicable in the 300
year in which the multi-year registration was issued, and the 301
registration deadline for renewal of the multi-year 302
registration. 303

(J) Subject to division (K) of this section, application 304
for registration under the international registration plan, as 305
set forth in sections 4503.60 to 4503.66 of the Revised Code, 306
shall be made to the registrar on forms furnished by the 307
registrar. In accordance with international registration plan 308
guidelines and pursuant to rules adopted by the registrar, the 309
forms shall include the following: 310

(1) A uniform mileage schedule; 311

(2) The gross vehicle weight of the vehicle or combined 312
gross vehicle weight of the combination vehicle as declared by 313
the registrant; 314

(3) Any other information the registrar requires by rule. 315

(K) The registrar shall determine the feasibility of 316
implementing an electronic commercial fleet licensing and 317
management program that will enable the owners of commercial 318
tractors, commercial trailers, and commercial semitrailers to 319
conduct electronic transactions by July 1, 2010, or sooner. If 320

the registrar determines that implementing such a program is 321
feasible, the registrar shall adopt new rules under this 322
division or amend existing rules adopted under this division as 323
necessary in order to respond to advances in technology. 324

If international registration plan guidelines and 325
provisions allow member jurisdictions to permit applications for 326
registrations under the international registration plan to be 327
made via the internet, the rules the registrar adopts under this 328
division shall permit such action. 329

Section 2. That existing section 4503.10 of the Revised 330
Code is hereby repealed. 331

Section 3. (A) The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall 332
provide a refund to any person that, under division (C) (3) or 333
(4) of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code, as amended by this 334
act, would have paid a prorated fee, but paid either of the 335
following before the effective date of this section: 336

(1) The full two hundred dollar plug-in electric motor 337
vehicle fee under division (C) (3) of section 4503.10 of the 338
Revised Code; 339

(2) The full one hundred dollar hybrid motor vehicle fee 340
under division (C) (4) of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code. 341

(B) The refund to a person under division (A) of this 342
section shall equal the fee amount the person paid minus the fee 343
the person would have paid had the fee been prorated in 344
accordance with division (C) (3) or (4) of section 4503.10 of the 345
Revised Code, as amended by this act. 346