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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 284**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Hiner and White

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### SUMMARY

- Requires the use of iron produced in the U.S. in certain state-funded projects, in addition to the existing requirement that those projects use U.S.-produced steel, and extends relevant penalties for failure to comply.
- Specifies that state-funded infrastructure projects and utility infrastructure improvement projects involving water works or sewage disposal must use U.S.-produced iron and steel.
- Requires the Director of Administrative Services to adopt rules establishing criteria consistent with federal law for use by state agencies in giving preference to U.S.-produced iron and steel products.
- Requires that state institutions of higher education comply with the U.S.-iron-and-steel use requirement.
- Permits the Director of Transportation to exempt bridge projects from the requirement to use U.S.-produced iron products under certain conditions.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### U.S. iron and steel – required

Current law mandates the purchase or provision of only U.S.-produced steel products in the construction, repair, or improvement of buildings and structures where the project is supported in whole or in part by state funds. The bill extends this requirement to U.S.-produced iron products. The bill redefines the existing term “steel products” as “iron and steel products” and eliminates the existing term’s references to specific industrial techniques, reflecting the new requirement to use U.S.-produced iron products and potentially expanding the kinds of steel products encompassed by the section. The bill extends existing penalties for failure to use

U.S.-produced steel products – a fine equal to one-and-a-half times the purchase price of the products – to the failure to use U.S.-produced iron products.<sup>1</sup>

The bill also expands the kinds of projects to which the U.S.-iron-and-steel requirement applies from the construction, repair, or improvement of any building or structure to the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of any building, structure, infrastructure, and utility infrastructure project involving water works or sewage disposal. The bill also specifies that state institutions of higher education must comply with the requirement to use U.S.-produced iron and steel products.<sup>2</sup>

## U.S. iron and steel – preference

The bill requires the Director of Administrative Services to adopt rules establishing criteria consistent with the federal “Safe Drinking Water Act,”<sup>3</sup> for use by all state agencies in giving preference to U.S.-produced iron and steel products.<sup>4</sup>

## U.S. iron and steel – exemption

Existing law permits the Director of Transportation to authorize the use of a minimal amount of foreign steel products in a bridge project when the cost of the steel products does not exceed .01% of the total contract cost or when the Director determines that the specified products are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient quantity or otherwise are not reasonably available to meet contract requirements. The bill permits the Director to authorize the use of a minimal amount of foreign iron products in bridge projects if either of the same conditions are met.<sup>5</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-25

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ANHB0284IN-136/sb

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 153.011(A) and (G)(1) and 153.99(B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 153.011(A) and 3333.071.

<sup>3</sup> 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 300j-12(a)(4)(c).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 153.011(F); R.C. 125.09, not in the bill.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 5525.21.