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H.B. 488
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Brennan

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SUMMARY

- Requires an amusement park owner or operator to implement and maintain a system that publicly communicates the real-time operational status of each of its amusement rides.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Real-time amusement ride status

The bill requires an owner or operator of an amusement park¹ to implement and maintain a system that publicly communicates the real-time ride status of each amusement ride on the park's premises during the park's operating hours. Under the bill, an amusement ride's ride status is the operational condition of an amusement ride at any given time. "Real-time" refers to a time period that is within five minutes of a change in an amusement ride's operational status.

The bill requires the owner or operator to specify the ride status as one of the following:

1. That the amusement ride is **operational** to indicate that the ride is open and functioning;
2. That the amusement ride is **temporarily closed** to indicate that the ride is not operating due to mechanical issues, weather, staffing issues, or other temporary causes;
3. That the amusement ride is **under maintenance** to indicate that the ride is closed for mechanical work or inspection; or

¹ Under the bill, an "amusement park" means a fixed-site amusement facility open to the public for a defined or seasonal period each year that contains amusement rides that are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (e.g., Cedar Point and Kings Island). R.C. 993.15(A).

4. Any other ride status that specifies that the amusement ride is closed and clearly indicates the reason for the closure.

The owner or operator, when implementing and maintaining a real-time ride status communication system, must ensure that the public may access the ride status of each amusement ride on the amusement park's premise by doing, at a minimum, both of the following:

1. Installing and maintaining digital signage that depicts the ride status of each amusement ride at or near the entrance to the amusement park and at the entrance of each amusement ride; and
2. Displaying the ride status of each amusement ride on the amusement park's website, any social media platforms, and any mobile application maintained by the amusement park's owners or operators.

The signage and electronic displays must be updated in real-time to reflect an amusement ride's ride status.²

Within 180 days after the bill's effective date, the Director of Agriculture must adopt rules to implement and enforce the bill's amusement ride status provisions, including provisions for inspections and compliance monitoring.³

An owner or operator who violates the bill's provisions and rules adopted under it is subject to the following administrative penalties:

1. A warning for a first violation;
2. A civil fine of \$10,000 per day for each subsequent violation; and
3. Any additional corrective actions specified in rules.⁴

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 10-01-25 |

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² R.C. 993.15(A) and (B).

³ R.C. 993.16.

⁴ R.C. 993.15(C) and (D).