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H.B. 434*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by House Transportation

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Willis and Lampton

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SUMMARY

- Exempts certain military-related limited term license applicants from the driver's education requirements.
- Expands the Drones for First Responders Program, enacted through H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly, to apply to first responders in counties and townships.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Limited term license: education requirements

Background

Beginning June 30, 2025, most adult limited term license applicants, when applying for the first issuance of that driver's license, must demonstrate that they have completed the full driver training course (24 hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of behind-the-wheel training) and 50 hours of practice driving with an adult who holds a valid Ohio driver's license.¹ A limited term license is the form of driver's license that is issued to temporary residents. A temporary resident is generally a person who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident under U.S. immigration laws but who has legal presence in the country.² These driver's education

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Transportation Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 4507.21(B)(3).

² Ohio Administrative Code 4501:1-1-21 and 4501:1-1-35.

requirements for limited term license applicants were enacted through H.B. 54 of this General Assembly (the transportation budget).

Exemptions

The bill creates an exemption from the driver's education requirements, described above, for a person who meets all of the following conditions:

1. The person possesses a valid, unexpired visa issued by the U.S. Department of State;
2. The person possesses a valid, unexpired foreign driver's license; and
3. The person presents a completed form, as prescribed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, attesting to the person's relationship with either the U.S. Military, the U.S. Department of Defense, or any of the Department of Defense's subordinate agencies.³

The exemption primarily encompasses individuals who are citizens of foreign nations and who are living in Ohio temporarily for work associated with the U.S. Military or the Department of Defense. In order to drive in Ohio while living and working here, these individuals often must obtain a limited term license. The limited term license is valid either until the end date on the person's visa, one year if no end date is specified, or four years maximum.⁴

Under current law, there are two other exemptions from the limited term license driver's education requirements. Namely, the following individuals are also exempt:

1. A person who otherwise receives a driver's license examination waiver by the Registrar because the person is active duty military, serving in the Peace Corps, serving with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), or in the foreign service of the U.S.; and
2. A person who is from a country with which the Registrar has a reciprocal arrangement (e.g., Japan, South Korea, Germany, Taiwan, and France).⁵

Drones for First Responders Program

The Drones for First Responders Program was enacted through H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly (the main operating budget). The program is a pilot program, administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation, that focuses on acquiring unmanned aerial vehicle systems for first responders (law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical service organizations) and providing training on the use of those systems. As enacted, however, the program only applies to first responders within municipal corporations. The bill expands the program to include first responders in counties and townships.⁶

³ R.C. 4507.21(B)(4)(c).

⁴ R.C. 4507.09, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 4507.21(B)(4)(a) and (b).

⁶ Sections 3 and 4. For additional information about the Drones for First Responders Program, see the LSC [Final Analysis for H.B. 96 \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website: legislature.ohio.gov.

Emergency clause

The bill declares an emergency. Thus, if enacted, its provisions would be effective immediately. The declared reason for the emergency is that certain foreign government officials and contractors associated with the U.S. Military and Department of Defense are otherwise unable to drive in Ohio without undertaking the complete driver's education courses and practice hours.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-03-25
Reported, H. Transportation	---
