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Office

H.B. 256
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 256's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. J. Miller and Creech

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Division of Wildlife within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) estimates it would incur costs of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to effect a change order with the vendor that manages its hunting and fishing license application system. The system would have to be modified to comply with the bill's requirements that the Division or the Division's authorized agent ask license applicants about their willingness to become organ donors, and in certain cases register an affirming applicant in the organ donor registry maintained by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
- Costs of the Division of Wildlife are paid from the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015) which receives revenue primarily from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and federal grants.

Detailed Analysis

Organ donor registry

The bill requires, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Wildlife to ask an eligible person applying for a hunting or fishing license if they would like to become an organ donor and provide a means for registering an affirming applicant with the organ donor registry maintained by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). To comply with this requirement, the Division will need to effect a change order with the vendor that manages its hunting and fishing license system. This will result in new costs for the Division. ODNR estimates that costs could be between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Costs of the Division are paid from the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015) which receives revenue primarily from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and federal grants. The bill's requirements are effective April 1, 2025. ODNR's contract with the vendor currently managing hunting and fishing licenses expires June 30, 2025.

A person can apply for hunting and fishing licenses online via the Division's website, on a mobile device via the Division's mobile app, in person at authorized license agents, or via mail. The bill specifies that for online applications (presumably including mobile app applications) the Division must provide a hyperlink to the BMV's organ donor registry where an affirming applicant would then register themselves. For in-person applications, the bill requires the Division, or the Division's authorized license agent, to register the affirming applicant, and for license applications by mail, the bill requires the Division to include the BMV's mail-in registration form with the hunting and fishing application. Costs incurred by the Division to comply with these requirements stem from changes that would need to be made to the internet platforms on which online, mobile app, and in-person hunting and fishing license applications are entered. In FY 2023, a total of 1.58 million hunting and fishing licenses were issued, all of which were applied for through one of the methods that use the internet platform.

Immunity from liability

The bill explicitly exempts the Division of Wildlife and authorized agents who issue hunting and fishing licenses from civil damages and prosecution for acting, attempting to act, or failing to act in accordance with the bill's provisions regarding registering a hunting or fishing license applicant as an anatomical gift donor. However, under the bill that immunity does not apply if the act, attempt, or omission was committed or omitted with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner. These provisions appear to have no fiscal effect.