



www.lsc.ohio.gov

# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 198  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Lang and Manning

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

Shalanda Plowden, Research Associate

### SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to make available and submit completed applications for state identification cards or temporary identification cards (“ID card”), on behalf of an individual in their custody.
- Requires DRC and DHS to initiate the application process within the nine months prior to an individual’s release.
- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to create a process by which DRC and DHS may submit the applications described above.
- Eliminates the current law identification cards issued by DRC and DHS that are used by individuals to obtain an ID card issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
- Specifies that the ID cards issued by the BMV to residents in the custody of DRC or DHS are free.
- Requires DRC to provide every inmate released from prison that committed a felony offense intending to live in Ohio with documentation to assist the inmate in obtaining post-release employment, creating a resume, and conducting a practice job interview.
- Exempts certain inmates from being required to complete resumes or practice job interviews prior to release from incarceration.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Post-release employment assistance

The bill makes several changes to current law designed to assist certain inmates and youth in custody in obtaining post-release employment after their confinement. Such

assistance includes resume creation, interview practice, compilation of necessary identity documentation, and obtaining a state identification card.

### **State identification cards**

The bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to provide an application for a state identification card or temporary identification card (“ID card”), as applicable, to a person who is in their custody.<sup>1</sup> The process for obtaining the ID card must begin approximately nine months before the inmate or youth’s release from confinement. DRC and DHS must give the application to anyone who does not have a current valid and unexpired ID card or driver’s license. If the person in the custody of DRC or DHS completes the application, the Department must submit the completed application, along with a color photograph of the person and supporting documentation of the person’s age and identity, to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.<sup>2</sup> DRC or DHS may sign the application, in lieu of a parent or guardian, for any minor applicants.<sup>3</sup>

Under current law, rather than applying directly for an ID card issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), DRC and DHS issue a separate identification card that operates as verification of the cardholder’s Social Security number and identification as a U.S. citizen. The cardholder can then use that separate identification card to obtain an ID card from the BMV. The bill eliminates this separate identification card in favor of DRC and DHS assisting inmates and youth in obtaining an ID card from the BMV directly.<sup>4</sup>

The bill authorizes the Registrar to establish a separate application and process for DRC and DHS to use in submitting applications. DRC and DHS must use that process in submitting completed applications. The Registrar can mail the ID card to either the individual or the applicable Department, as necessary based on the timing of the mailing and the location of the individual. Any ID card issued to an inmate or youth who is under 17 and in the custody of DRC or DHS is free.<sup>5</sup> The bill also makes technical changes, clarifying that all ID card applications must be accompanied by any necessary supporting documents, which the Registrar or deputy registrar will authenticate and verify.<sup>6</sup>

### **Employment-related documents**

The bill requires DRC to provide every inmate released from a term of imprisonment for a felony offense who intends to reside in Ohio with documentation that will assist the inmate in

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4507.50. A “temporary identification card” is issued to individuals whose driver’s license is suspended.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5120.59 and 5139.511.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4507.51(A)(1).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4507.51(B), 5120.59, and 5139.511.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4507.50(D) and (E)(3), 4507.51(B)(2), and 4507.52(B)(5)(c). ID cards are already free for anyone 17 or older in Ohio.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4507.51(A)(4).

obtaining post-release employment. Additionally, DRC must help some inmates in creating a resume and conducting a practice job interview.<sup>7</sup> The documentation that DRC must provide upon the inmate's release from custody includes:

- A copy of the vocational training record of the inmate, if applicable;
- A copy of the work record of the inmate, if applicable;
- A certified copy of the birth certificate of the inmate, if obtainable;
- A Social Security card or a replacement Social Security card of the inmate, if the inmate has a Social Security number; and
- An identification card or temporary identification card issued by the BMV.<sup>8</sup>

To assist an inmate released from prison in obtaining post-release employment, DRC must also provide a resume that includes any trade learned by the inmate and the proficiency at that trade by the inmate. The bill also requires DRC to provide documentation that the inmate has completed a practice interview as well as a notification to the inmate if the inmate is eligible to apply for a license from a state entity charged with oversight of an occupational license or certification.<sup>9</sup>

### **Inmate exemption**

The bill exempts certain inmates released from prison for a felony offense from being required to complete a resume or practice job interview. Specifically, inmates 65 or older, inmates granted judicial release, or inmates release as if on parole, and inmates released to the custody of another jurisdiction are not required to complete resumes or practice job interviews. The bill also provides that inmates DRC determines to be physically or mentally unable to return to the workforce upon release from incarceration are not required to complete resumes or practice job interviews.<sup>10</sup>

### **Post-release employment documentation**

The bill requires DRC to provide every inmate released from a term of imprisonment for a felony offense and who intends to reside in Ohio with specific documentation that will assist the inmate in obtaining post-release employment, creating a resume, and conducting a practice job interview.<sup>11</sup> DRC must provide upon the inmate's release from custody the following documentation:<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(A).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(B).

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(B).

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(C).

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(A).

<sup>12</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(B).

- A copy of the inmate’s vocational training record, if applicable;
- A copy of the inmate’s work record, if applicable;
- A certified copy of the inmate’s birth certificate, if obtainable;
- A Social Security card or a replacement Social Security card of the inmate, if the inmate has a Social Security number;
- An identification card or temporary identification card issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles;
- A resume that includes any trade learned by the inmate and the inmate’s proficiency at that trade;
- Documentation that the inmate has completed a practice interview;
- A notification to the inmate if the inmate is eligible to apply for a license from a state entity charged with oversight of an occupational license or certification.

## **Inmates exempt from completing resumes and practice job interviews**

The bill exempts the following categories of inmates from being required to complete a resume or practice job interview prior to release from incarceration:<sup>13</sup>

- Inmates age 65 or older;
- Inmates granted judicial release or released as if on parole;
- Inmates released to the custody of another jurisdiction;
- Inmates that DRC determines would be physically or mentally unable to return to the workforce upon release from incarceration.

---

## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	11-29-23

ANSB0198IN-135/ar

---

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 5145.1611(C).