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H.B. 373
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and Stewart

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SUMMARY

- Adds a clerk of a court of common pleas (“clerk”) to the list of entities that, under certain circumstances, are authorized to conduct a physical inspection of a motor vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle when the owner applies for an Ohio certificate of title.
- Authorizes the clerk to collect a \$5 service fee for the physical inspection.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill adds a clerk of a court of common pleas (“clerk”) to the list of entities that are authorized to conduct a physical inspection of all of the following:

1. A motor vehicle most recently registered in another state when the owner of the vehicle applies for an Ohio certificate of title;¹
2. An off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle that contains a manufacturer’s permanent identification number (“VIN number”), but that does not have an Ohio certificate of title (unless the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle is new and sold by a licensed dealer accompanied by a manufacturer’s or importer’s certificate of origin);² and

¹ R.C. 4505.061(B).

² R.C. 4519.56(B).

3. An off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle most recently registered in another state when the owner of the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle applies for an Ohio certificate of title.³

The bill allows, but does not require, the clerk to offer physical inspections. If the clerk offers the inspections, the inspections must take place at the office of the clerk. When conducting an inspection, the clerk must verify the make, body type, model, mileage, and VIN number of any motor vehicle and the make, year, series or model (if any), body type, and VIN number of any off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle.

Currently, only a deputy registrar's office or a licensed Ohio motor vehicle dealer may perform these physical inspections. The deputy registrar or dealer may charge a \$5 service fee for the inspection. Accordingly, the bill extends the authority to charge the \$5 service fee to a clerk that conducts an inspection. The bill retains law that requires the clerk to process a physical inspection certificate and issue the title, regardless of the entity that conducts the physical inspection.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-08-24

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³ R.C. 4519.69.

⁴ R.C. 4505.061(E), 4519.56(B), and 4519.69.