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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

**S.B. 87**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 87's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Maharath

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The Bureau of Motor Vehicles may experience a decrease in state identification card revenue to issue cards at no cost to any veteran or any person with a mobility impairment. That revenue loss would be partially offset by a savings in production and distribution costs from not having to issue cards as frequently. The magnitude of any revenue loss or offsetting savings would depend upon the number of cards issued at no cost.
- Thirteen clerks of a court of common pleas and county auditors serving as deputy registrars may experience a decrease in state identification card revenue, the magnitude of which would depend upon the number of such cards issued at no cost.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill expands current law's eligibility to obtain a nondriver state identification card with an eight-year period of validity to include any veteran or any person who has a mobility impairment, and provides that any veteran or any unemployed person who has a mobility impairment may obtain the card at no cost. Under current law, eligibility to obtain such a card at no cost is limited to disabled veterans with a service-connected disability or a person who is unemployed and who has a permanent or irreversible disability.

The bill also requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles: (1) to adopt rules governing the documentation necessary for eligibility certification, and (2) to issue a reminder notice to a cardholder who is a veteran or who has a mobility impairment six months before the card is scheduled to expire.

## State identification card revenue

State identification cards, which are issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), are used for identification purposes only and may not be used for driving privileges. They are generally valid for a four-year period, expiring on the holder's birthday, and may not be held along with a driver's license. While certain veterans and residents with a mobility impairment may qualify for a state identification card with the extended expiration date under current law, the bill expands eligibility for these cards to include all veterans and all residents with a mobility impairment.

The bill's expansion of eligibility for an eight-year identification card may result in a decrease in the amount of state identification card revenue collected and available for use by deputy registrars and the BMV, since the bill specifies that the card is to be issued at no cost. The BMV currently assesses a fee of \$8.50 for new and renewal state identification cards and a fee of \$7.50 for duplicate and replacement cards. Of the amount collected, the deputy registrar retains \$5.00 (\$3.50 deputy registrar fee<sup>1</sup> + \$1.50 document authentication fee), with the remainder deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5MT0).

There are approximately 200 deputy registrar locations statewide, most of which are operated by private independent contractors. The clerk of the court of common pleas or county auditor operates as a deputy registrar in 13 counties.<sup>2</sup> Because of the bill, these clerks/auditors will be required to issue certain state identification cards free of charge, which means they will have to forego collecting the above-noted \$5.00 typically retained. The magnitude of any potential fee revenue loss for a clerk or auditor serving as a deputy registrar will depend upon the number of cards issued at no cost under the bill.

### BMV costs

The bill may result in a potential savings effect in state identification card production and distribution costs that would partially offset any loss in revenue for the BMV. Currently, the BMV issues a new card to individuals every four years. For each card issued under the bill, the BMV would experience a savings in production and distribution costs by not having to issue a new card when they otherwise would have under current law. The cost for the BMV to produce and distribute a state identification card is \$1.86 per card. The amount of any potential savings in production and distribution costs experienced by the BMV will depend upon the number of individuals who obtain a card under the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> The deputy registrar fee is currently set in rule at \$3.50. The Department of Public Safety has filed a rule that would increase that fee to \$5.00, or by \$1.50, as mandated by H.B. 166 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Champaign, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Harrison, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Montgomery, Perry, Vinton, Wayne, and Wyandot counties currently have their clerk of the court of common pleas or their county auditor serving as a deputy registrar.

The requirement that the Registrar adopt certain rules is a one-time activity that will not produce any discernible costs for the BMV. The requirement that the Registrar issue a reminder notice for a state identification card scheduled to expire is expected to generate minimal at most costs annually for the BMV.

### **Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund**

Under current law, unchanged by the bill, state identification card fees are credited to the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5TM0). It is used for the purpose of enforcing and paying the expenses of administering the laws relative to the registration and operation of motor vehicles on public roads and highways. The production, distribution, and notification costs for state identification cards are paid for with money appropriated from Fund 5TM0.