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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 285 of the 133rd General Assembly

Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

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Amendments adopted in Senate committee make the following changes:

Structure of the program

- Breaks up eligibility for the program into **two** phases as follows:

1st phase reduction

A person is eligible for a reduction in reinstatement fees if the eligible offense(s) occurred **prior** to the effective date of the bill, at least 18 months have expired since the end of the license suspension period for at least **one** of the offenses, and the person is not indigent (*R.C. 4510.103(A)(1)*).

1st phase waiver

A person is eligible for a complete waiver in reinstatement fees if the eligible offense(s) occurred **prior** to the effective date of the bill and the person is indigent (*R.C. 4510.103(A)(2)*).

2nd phase reduction

A person is eligible for a reduction in reinstatement fees if the eligible offense(s) occurred **after** the effective date of the bill, the person was not eligible to participate in the 1st phase, the person did **not** participate in the 1st phase and has not participated in the 2nd phase, at least 18 months have expired since the end of the license suspension period for at least **one** of the offenses, and the person is not indigent (*R.C. 4510.104(A)(1)*).

2nd phase waiver

A person is eligible for a complete waiver in reinstatement fees if the eligible offense(s) occurred **after** the effective date of the bill, the person was not eligible to participate in the 1st phase, the person did **not** participate in the 1st phase and has not participated in the 2nd phase, and the person is indigent (*R.C. 4510.104(A)(2)*).

- Requires Director of the Public Safety, for the 1st and 2nd phase of the program, to include the reinstatement fees for any suspension that is the result of an eligible offense, regardless of whether the person has completed the term of the suspension, but a participant must still complete each applicable suspension (*R.C. 4510.103(E) and 4510.104(E)*).

Future eligibility for the program

- Specifies that a person who receives a reduction or waiver in the 2nd phase of the program is not eligible for a subsequent reduction or waiver through the program. (Anyone who participates in the 1st phase of the program is not eligible to participate in the 2nd phase of the program.) (*R.C. 4510.104(D)*.)

Eligible offenses

- Removes solicitation (when a motor vehicle is involved) from the list of eligible offenses for participation in the program. (*R.C. 4510.101(A)*.)

Administration of the program

- Requires a participant in the program to provide proof of financial responsibility when the participant has their driver's license reinstated (consistent with current law) (*R.C. 4510.105(A)*).
- Specifies that a payment plan for a participant in the program who is receiving a reduction of reinstatement fees should be used only when the person does not pay the remaining fees in full (*R.C. 4510.105(B)*).
- Authorizes the Director to include in the payment plan the reinstatement fees a person owes for offenses that are **not** eligible for or included in the program (*R.C. 4510.105(B)*).
- Requires a participant who makes a payment in person at a deputy registrar office to pay a \$10 deputy registrar/BMV fee (as opposed to the \$5 fee from the House-Passed version – the \$10 fee is consistent with current law for other reinstatement fee payments) (*R.C. 4510.105(C)*).

Notification about the program

- Requires the Director to send an eligible participant notice about the program only once, but authorizes the Director to send additional notices to a person as the Director determines appropriate (*R.C. 4510.106(A) and (C)*).
- Requires the Director to **automatically enroll** a person receiving a notice into the applicable phase of the program and informs the person that the person may either begin making payments or may submit proof of indigency (*R.C. 4510.106*).
- Adjusts the information contained in the notice to accommodate the changes in the program (*R.C. 4510.106*).

- Authorizes the Director to remove a person's name and any associated debts owed to the Department of Public Safety from the Department's records if the Director discovers that a person is deceased prior to sending the notification required by the bill (*R.C. 4510.107(A)(2)*).

Technical changes

- Makes technical, structural, and formatting changes throughout the bill to accommodate the substantive changes in the bill (e.g., multiple new Revised Code sections instead of one section).