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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 472
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cockley and Salvo

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SUMMARY

- Eliminates fees for copies of birth certificates issued to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Eliminates fees for identification cards issued to individuals under the age of 17 experiencing homelessness.
- Eliminates fees for duplicate or reprint identification cards for individuals 17 or older who are experiencing homelessness.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Birth certificate fees

H.B. 472 requires the Director of Health to waive all fees for a certified copy of a birth record (full birth record), a certification of birth (condensed birth record), or replacement of a birth record if the individual requesting the document is experiencing homelessness. One of the following must verify that the individual is experiencing homelessness for the fee to be waived: (1) a director or person designated by the director of a government or nonprofit agency that receives funding to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness, (2) a school social worker, school counselor, or local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, (3) a director or person designated by a director of either a federal TRIO program or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP), or (4) a financial aid administrator for an institution of higher education.¹

¹ R.C. 3705.243, with conforming changes in R.C. 3109.14, 3705.24, and 3705.242.

Identification card fees

Continuing law specifies that any person who is 17 or older may receive an identification card, a temporary identification card (for use when a drivers' license is suspended), or a replacement identification card without paying a fee.² The bill additionally prohibits the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar from charging a fee for issuing an identification card to an individual under 17 experiencing homelessness, or for issuing a duplicate or reprint identification card to an individual of any age experiencing homelessness.³

Ohio law distinguishes between duplicate, reprint, and replacement identification cards. A duplicate identification card is issued if a card is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, and involves filing an application and presenting evidence to the registrar or deputy registrar. A reprint is also issued if a card is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, but it must be applied for online. A replacement identification card is issued when the cardholder's name or citizenship status needs to be updated.⁴ Although current law specifies that of these three only a replacement identification card is free for someone 17 or older, in practice it appears that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) does not issue replacement identification cards that are distinct from duplicate/reprint cards, and does not currently charge a fee for a duplicate or reprint identification card for this age group.⁵

Homelessness definition

The bill defines "individual experiencing homelessness" as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or who has as a primary nighttime residence a temporary shelter or place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes (1) individuals who do not have access to, or who are in imminent danger of losing access to, normal accommodations as a result of violence or a threat of violence from a cohabitant and (2) individuals who have been released from a carceral facility, a mental health or developmental disability facility, a residential addiction treatment program, or a hospital, for whom no residence is identified and who lacks the resources necessary to obtain housing.⁶

² R.C. 4507.50(D) and 4507.52(B)(6).

³ R.C. 4507.50(E)(3) and 4507.52(B)(5)(d).

⁴ R.C. 4507.52(B)(1) to (3); R.C. 4507.233 and 4507.40, not in the bill.

⁵ Ohio BMV, "[Driver License & Identification Card Related Fees](#)," updated May 12, 2023, available by searching "fees" on the BMV website, bmv.ohio.gov.

⁶ R.C. 3705.243(A).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-29-25
