

**As Reported by the Senate Highways and Transportation  
Committee**

**129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2011-2012**

**Sub. S. B. No. 179**

**Senator Wilson**

**Cosponsors: Senators Sawyer, Tavares, Kearney, Schaffer**

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 1505.11 and 4519.03 and to enact	1
sections 1505.12, 1505.13, and 4503.515 of the	2
Revised Code to create the "Ohio Geology" license	3
plate, to require the Ohio Geology Advisory	4
Council to establish and administer a grant	5
program utilizing the contributions that are paid	6
by persons who obtain the license plate, and to	7
eliminate the provision in the Special Vehicle Law	8
that permits owners of certain off-highway	9
motorcycles and all-purpose vehicles to register	10
the motorcycles and vehicles by presenting	11
affidavits of ownership rather than certificates	12
of title.	13

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

<b>Section 1.</b> That sections 1505.11 and 4519.03 be amended and	14
sections 1505.12, 1505.13, and 4503.515 of the Revised Code be	15
enacted to read as follows:	16

<b>Sec. 1505.11.</b> <u>(A)</u> There is hereby created in the department	17
of natural resources the Ohio geology advisory council consisting	18

of seven members to be appointed by the governor with the advice 19  
and consent of the senate. No more than four of the members shall 20  
be of the same political party. Members shall be persons who have 21  
a demonstrated interest in the geology and mineral resources of 22  
this state and whose expertise reflects the various 23  
responsibilities of the division of geological survey. The council 24  
shall include at least one representative from each of the 25  
following: the oil and gas industry, the industrial minerals 26  
industry, the coal industry, hydrogeology interests, environmental 27  
geology interests, and an institution of higher education in this 28  
state. The chief of the division of geological survey may 29  
participate in the deliberations of the council, but shall not 30  
vote. 31

Within ninety days after May 3, 1990, the governor shall make 32  
initial appointments to the council. Of the initial appointments, 33  
three shall be for a term ending one year after May 3, 1990, three 34  
shall be for a term ending two years after May 3, 1990, and one 35  
shall be for a term ending three years after May 3, 1990. 36  
Thereafter, terms of office shall be for three years, with each 37  
term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term that 38  
it succeeds. Members may be reappointed. The governor may remove 39  
any member at any time for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or 40  
malfeasance in office. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner 41  
provided for original appointments. Any member appointed to fill a 42  
vacancy prior to the expiration date of the term for which the 43  
member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office as a member 44  
for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue in office 45  
subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the 46  
member's successor takes office or until a period of sixty days 47  
has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 48

Serving as an appointed member on the council does not 49  
constitute holding a public office or position of employment under 50

the laws of this state and does not constitute grounds for removal 51  
of public officers or employees from their offices or positions of 52  
employment. 53

Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be 54  
reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the 55  
performance of their official duties from moneys appropriated to 56  
the division. 57

The council annually shall select from its members a 58  
chairperson and a vice-chairperson. The council shall hold at 59  
least one meeting each calendar quarter and shall keep a record of 60  
its proceedings, which shall be open to public inspection. Special 61  
meetings may be called by the chairperson and shall be called upon 62  
the written request of two or more members. A majority of the 63  
members constitutes a quorum. The division shall furnish clerical, 64  
technical, legal, and other services required by the council in 65  
the performance of its duties. 66

(B) The council shall do all of the following: 67

~~(A)~~(1) Advise the chief in carrying out the duties of the 68  
division under this chapter; 69

~~(B)~~(2) Recommend policy and legislation with respect to 70  
geology, resource analysis, and management that will promote the 71  
economic and industrial development of the state while minimizing 72  
threats to the natural environment of the state; 73

~~(C)~~(3) Review and make recommendations on the development of 74  
plans and programs for long-term, comprehensive geologic mapping 75  
and analysis throughout the state; 76

~~(D)~~(4) Recommend ways to enhance cooperation among 77  
governmental agencies having an interest in the geology of the 78  
state to encourage wise use and management of the geology and 79  
mineral resources of the state. To this end, the council shall 80  
request nonvoting representation from appropriate governmental 81

agencies. 82

~~(E)~~(5) Review and make recommendations with respect to 83  
changes in the fee schedules established in rules adopted under 84  
section 1505.05 of the Revised Code. 85

(6) Establish and administer the grant program as described 86  
in section 1505.12 of the Revised Code. 87

Sec. 1505.12. The Ohio geology advisory council shall 88  
establish a grant program utilizing the contributions that are 89  
paid to the bureau of motor vehicles by persons who obtain "Ohio 90  
geology" license plates pursuant to section 4503.515 of the 91  
Revised Code and are deposited into the "Ohio geology" license 92  
plate fund created by section 1505.13 of the Revised Code. The 93  
primary purpose of the program shall be the awarding of grants by 94  
the council to geology departments of colleges and universities 95  
located in this state for graduate level research conducted at 96  
locations of geological interest in this state. Subject to the 97  
amount of money in the fund, the secondary purpose of the program 98  
shall be to provide materials such as rock and mineral kits to 99  
elementary and secondary schools in this state to assist students 100  
at those schools in the study of geology. 101

The council shall award grants at least annually and, in its 102  
discretion, may award grants on a more frequent basis. 103

Sec. 1505.13. There is hereby created in the state treasury 104  
the "Ohio geology" license plate fund. The fund shall consist of 105  
the contributions that are paid to the bureau of motor vehicles by 106  
applicants who choose to obtain "Ohio geology" license plates 107  
pursuant to section 4503.515 of the Revised Code. 108

The contributions deposited into the fund shall be used by 109  
the Ohio geology advisory council in the manner described in 110  
section 1505.12 of the Revised Code. 111

Sec. 4503.515. (A) The owner or lessee of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the registrar of motor vehicles may apply to the registrar for the registration of the vehicle and issuance of "Ohio geology" license plates. The application may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code. Upon receipt of the completed application and compliance by the applicant with divisions (B) and (C) of this section, the registrar shall issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "Ohio geology" license plates and a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when required by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on the license plates, "Ohio geology" license plates shall bear an appropriate logo and words selected by the Ohio geology advisory council and approved by the registrar. "Ohio geology" license plates shall display county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number.

(B) "Ohio geology" license plates and a validation sticker, or validation sticker alone, shall be issued upon receipt of an application for registration of a motor vehicle under this section; payment of the regular license tax as prescribed under section 4503.04 of the Revised Code, any applicable motor vehicle license tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, any applicable additional fee prescribed by section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, an additional fee of fifteen dollars, and a contribution as provided in division (C) of this section; and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles.

(C) For each application for registration and registration

renewal notice the registrar receives under this section, the 143  
registrar shall collect a contribution of fifteen dollars. The 144  
registrar shall transmit this contribution to the treasurer of 145  
state for deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the 146  
"Ohio geology" license plate fund created by section 1505.13 of 147  
the Revised Code. 148

The registrar shall transmit the additional fee of ten 149  
dollars, the purpose of which is to compensate the bureau of motor 150  
vehicles for the additional services required in the issuing of 151  
"Ohio geology" license plates, to the treasurer of state for 152  
deposit into the state treasury to the credit of the state bureau 153  
of motor vehicles fund created by section 4501.25 of the Revised 154  
Code. 155

**Sec. 4519.03.** (A) The owner of every snowmobile, off-highway 156  
motorcycle, and all-purpose vehicle required to be registered 157  
under section 4519.02 of the Revised Code shall file an 158  
application for registration with the registrar of motor vehicles 159  
or a deputy registrar, on blanks furnished by the registrar for 160  
that purpose and containing all of the following information: 161

(1) A brief description of the snowmobile, off-highway 162  
motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, including the year, make, 163  
model, and the vehicle identification number; 164

(2) The name, residence, and business address of the owner; 165

(3) A statement that the snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, 166  
or all-purpose vehicle is equipped as required by section 4519.20 167  
of the Revised Code and any rule adopted under that section. The 168  
statement shall include a check list of the required equipment 169  
items in the form the registrar shall prescribe. 170

The application shall be signed by the owner of the 171  
snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle and 172

shall be accompanied by a fee as provided in division (C) of 173  
section 4519.04 of the Revised Code. 174

If the application is not in proper form, or if the vehicle 175  
for which registration is sought does not appear to be equipped as 176  
required by section 4519.20 of the Revised Code or any rule 177  
adopted under that section, the registration shall be refused, and 178  
no registration sticker, license plate, or validation sticker 179  
shall be issued. 180

(B) ~~Except as provided in this division, no~~ No certificate of 181  
registration or renewal of a certificate of registration shall be 182  
issued for an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle 183  
required to be registered under section 4519.02 of the Revised 184  
Code, and no certificate of registration issued under this chapter 185  
for an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle that is sold 186  
or otherwise transferred shall be transferred to the new owner of 187  
the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle as permitted by 188  
division (B) of section 4519.05 of the Revised Code, unless a 189  
certificate of title has been issued under this chapter for the 190  
motorcycle or vehicle, and the owner or new owner, as the case may 191  
be, presents a physical certificate of title or memorandum 192  
certificate of title for inspection at the time the owner or new 193  
owner first submits a registration application, registration 194  
renewal application, or registration transfer application for the 195  
motorcycle or vehicle if a physical certificate of title or 196  
memorandum certificate has been issued by a clerk of a court of 197  
common pleas. If, under sections 4519.512 and 4519.58 of the 198  
Revised Code, a clerk instead has issued an electronic certificate 199  
of title for the applicant's off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose 200  
vehicle, that certificate may be presented for inspection at the 201  
time of first registration in a manner prescribed by rules adopted 202  
by the registrar. ~~In the case of an off-highway motorcycle or~~ 203  
~~all-purpose vehicle that was purchased prior to October 1, 2005,~~ 204

~~and for which a certificate of title has not been issued, the~~ 205  
~~owner shall not be required to present a physical certificate of~~ 206  
~~title or memorandum certificate of title or an electronic~~ 207  
~~certificate of title for the motorcycle or vehicle but instead may~~ 208  
~~present a signed affidavit of ownership in a form prescribed by~~ 209  
~~the registrar. The affidavit shall include, at a minimum, the date~~ 210  
~~of purchase, make, model, and vehicle identification number of the~~ 211  
~~motorcycle or vehicle. If no vehicle identification number has~~ 212  
~~been assigned to the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose~~ 213  
~~vehicle, then the serial number of the motorcycle or vehicle shall~~ 214  
~~be presented at the time of application.~~ 215

(C) When the owner of an off-highway motorcycle or 216  
all-purpose vehicle first registers it in the owner's name, and a 217  
certificate of title has been issued for the motorcycle or 218  
vehicle, the owner shall present for inspection a physical 219  
certificate of title or memorandum certificate of title showing 220  
title to the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle in the 221  
name of the owner if a physical certificate of title or memorandum 222  
certificate has been issued by a clerk of a court of common pleas. 223  
If, under sections 4519.512 and 4519.58 of the Revised Code, a 224  
clerk instead has issued an electronic certificate of title for 225  
the applicant's off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle, 226  
that certificate may be presented for inspection at the time of 227  
first registration in a manner prescribed by rules adopted by the 228  
registrar. ~~In the case of an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose~~ 229  
~~vehicle that was purchased prior to October 1, 2005, and for which~~ 230  
~~a certificate of title has not been issued, the owner shall not be~~ 231  
~~required to present a physical certificate of title or memorandum~~ 232  
~~certificate of title or an electronic certificate of title for the~~ 233  
~~motorcycle or vehicle but instead may present a signed affidavit~~ 234  
~~of ownership in a form prescribed by the registrar. The affidavit~~ 235  
~~shall include, at a minimum, the date of purchase, make, model,~~ 236  
~~and vehicle identification number of the motorcycle or vehicle. If~~ 237



~~no vehicle identification number has been assigned to the~~ 238  
~~off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle, then the serial~~ 239  
~~number of the motorcycle or vehicle shall be presented at the time~~ 240  
~~of application.~~ If, when the owner of such an off-highway 241  
motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle first makes application to 242  
register it in the owner's name, the application is not in proper 243  
form or the certificate of title or memorandum certificate of 244  
title does not accompany the registration or, in the case of an 245  
electronic certificate of title ~~or ownership affidavit, it is not~~ 246  
presented in a manner prescribed by the registrar, the 247  
registration shall be refused, and neither a certificate of 248  
registration nor a registration sticker, licenseplate, or 249  
validation sticker shall be issued. When a certificate of 250  
registration and registration sticker, license plate, or 251  
validation sticker are issued upon the first registration of an 252  
off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle by or on behalf of 253  
the owner, the official issuing them shall indicate the issuance 254  
with a stamp on the certificate of title, or memorandum 255  
certificate of title, ~~or affidavit,~~ or, in the case of an 256  
electronic certificate of title, an electronic stamp or other 257  
notation as specified in rules adopted by the registrar. 258

(D) Each deputy registrar shall be allowed a fee of three 259  
dollars and fifty cents for each application or renewal 260  
application received by the deputy registrar, which shall be for 261  
the purpose of compensating the deputy registrar for services, and 262  
office and rental expense, as may be necessary for the proper 263  
discharge of the deputy registrar's duties in the receiving of 264  
applications and the issuing of certificates of registration. 265

Each deputy registrar, upon receipt of any application for 266  
registration, together with the registration fee, shall transmit 267  
the fee, together with the original and duplicate copy of the 268  
application, to the registrar in the manner and at the times the 269

registrar, subject to the approval of the director of public 270  
safety and the treasurer of state, shall prescribe by rule. 271

**Section 2.** That existing sections 1505.11 and 4519.03 of the 272  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 273