

**As Introduced**

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

**S. B. No. 244**

**Senator Kearney**

**Cosponsors: Senators Skindell, Turner**

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**A B I L L**

To amend section 4503.102 to require the Registrar of 1  
Motor Vehicles and all deputy registrars to accept 2  
credit and debit cards for transactions of more 3  
than ten dollars. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 4503.102 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 4503.102.** (A) The registrar of motor vehicles shall 7  
adopt rules to establish a centralized system of motor vehicle 8  
registration renewal by mail or by electronic means. Any person 9  
owning a motor vehicle that was registered in the person's name 10  
during the preceding registration year shall renew the 11  
registration of the motor vehicle not more than ninety days prior 12  
to the expiration date of the registration either by mail or by 13  
electronic means through the centralized system of registration 14  
established under this section, or in person at any office of the 15  
registrar or at a deputy registrar's office. 16

(B)(1) No less than forty-five days prior to the expiration 17  
date of any motor vehicle registration, the registrar shall mail a 18  
renewal notice to the person in whose name the motor vehicle is 19

registered. The renewal notice shall clearly state that the 20  
registration of the motor vehicle may be renewed by mail or 21  
electronic means through the centralized system of registration or 22  
in person at any office of the registrar or at a deputy 23  
registrar's office and shall be preprinted with information 24  
including, but not limited to, the owner's name and residence 25  
address as shown in the records of the bureau of motor vehicles, a 26  
brief description of the motor vehicle to be registered, notice of 27  
the license taxes and fees due on the motor vehicle, the toll-free 28  
telephone number of the registrar as required under division 29  
(D)(1) of section 4503.031 of the Revised Code, and any additional 30  
information the registrar may require by rule. The renewal notice 31  
shall not include the social security number of either the owner 32  
of the motor vehicle or the person in whose name the motor vehicle 33  
is registered. The renewal notice shall be sent by regular mail to 34  
the owner's last known address as shown in the records of the 35  
bureau of motor vehicles. 36

(2) If the application for renewal of the registration of a 37  
motor vehicle is prohibited from being accepted by the registrar 38  
or a deputy registrar by division (D) of section 2935.27, division 39  
(A) of section 2937.221, division (A) of section 4503.13, division 40  
(B) of section 4510.22, or division (B)(1) of section 4521.10 of 41  
the Revised Code, the registrar is not required to send a renewal 42  
notice to the vehicle owner or vehicle lessee. 43

(C) The owner of the motor vehicle shall verify the 44  
information contained in the notice, sign it either manually or by 45  
electronic means, and return it, either by mail or electronic 46  
means, or the owner may take it in person to any office of the 47  
registrar or of a deputy registrar, together with a financial 48  
transaction device number, ~~when permitted by rule of the~~ 49  
~~registrar~~, check, or money order in the amount of the registration 50  
taxes and fees payable on the motor vehicle and a mail fee of ~~two~~ 51

~~dollars and seventy five cents commencing on July 1, 2001, three~~ 52  
~~dollars and twenty five cents commencing on January 1, 2003, and~~ 53  
~~three dollars and fifty cents commencing on January 1, 2004, plus~~ 54  
postage as indicated on the notice, if the registration is renewed 55  
by mail, and an inspection certificate for the motor vehicle as 56  
provided in section 3704.14 of the Revised Code. If the motor 57  
vehicle owner chooses to renew the motor vehicle registration by 58  
electronic means, the owner shall proceed in accordance with the 59  
rules the registrar adopts. 60

(D) If all registration and transfer fees for the motor 61  
vehicle for the preceding year or the preceding period of the 62  
current registration year have not been paid, if division (D) of 63  
section 2935.27, division (A) of section 2937.221, division (A) of 64  
section 4503.13, division (B) of section 4510.22, or division 65  
(B)(1) of section 4521.10 of the Revised Code prohibits acceptance 66  
of the renewal notice, or if the owner or lessee does not have an 67  
inspection certificate for the motor vehicle as provided in 68  
section 3704.14 of the Revised Code, if that section is 69  
applicable, the license shall be refused, and the registrar or 70  
deputy registrar shall so notify the owner. This section does not 71  
require the payment of license or registration taxes on a motor 72  
vehicle for any preceding year, or for any preceding period of a 73  
year, if the motor vehicle was not taxable for that preceding year 74  
or period under section 4503.02, 4503.04, 4503.11, 4503.12, or 75  
4503.16 or Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code. 76

(E)(1) Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve a 77  
motor vehicle owner from the responsibility to renew the 78  
registration for the motor vehicle. Any person who has a motor 79  
vehicle registered in this state and who does not receive a 80  
renewal notice as provided in division (B) of this section prior 81  
to the expiration date of the registration shall request an 82  
application for registration from the registrar or a deputy 83

registrar and sign the application manually or by electronic means 84  
and submit the application and pay any applicable license taxes 85  
and fees to the registrar or deputy registrar. 86

(2) If the owner of a motor vehicle submits an application 87  
for registration and the registrar is prohibited by division (D) 88  
of section 2935.27, division (A) of section 2937.221, division (A) 89  
of section 4503.13, division (B) of section 4510.22, or division 90  
(B)(1) of section 4521.10 of the Revised Code from accepting the 91  
application, the registrar shall return the application and the 92  
payment to the owner. If the owner of a motor vehicle submits a 93  
registration renewal application to the registrar by electronic 94  
means and the registrar is prohibited from accepting the 95  
application as provided in this division, the registrar shall 96  
notify the owner of this fact and deny the application and return 97  
the payment or give a credit on the financial transaction device 98  
account of the owner in the manner the registrar prescribes by 99  
rule adopted pursuant to division (A) of this section. 100

(F) Every deputy registrar shall post in a prominent place at 101  
the deputy's office a notice informing the public of the mail 102  
registration system required by this section and also shall post a 103  
notice that every owner of a motor vehicle and every chauffeur 104  
holding a certificate of registration is required to notify the 105  
registrar in writing of any change of residence within ten days 106  
after the change occurs. The notice shall be in such form as the 107  
registrar prescribes by rule. 108

(G) ~~The two dollars and seventy five cents fee collected from 109  
July 1, 2001, through December 31, 2002, the three dollars and 110  
twenty five cents fee collected from January 1, 2003, through 111  
December 31, 2003, and the three dollars and fifty cents fee 112  
collected after January 1, 2004, plus postage and any financial 113  
transaction device surcharge collected by the registrar for 114  
registration by mail, shall be paid to the credit of the state 115~~

bureau of motor vehicles fund established by section 4501.25 of 116  
the Revised Code. 117

(H)(1) Pursuant to section 113.40 of the Revised Code, the 118  
registrar ~~may~~ shall implement a program permitting payment of 119  
charges in excess of ten dollars for motor vehicle registration 120  
taxes and fees, driver's license and commercial driver's license 121  
fees, and any other taxes, fees, penalties, or charges imposed or 122  
levied by the state by means of a financial transaction device. 123  
The registrar ~~may~~ shall adopt rules as necessary for this purpose. 124

(2) Commencing with deputy registrar contract awards that 125  
have a start date of July 1, ~~2008~~ 2013, and for all contract 126  
awards thereafter, the registrar shall ~~incorporate in the review~~ 127  
~~process a score for whether or not a proposer states~~ require that 128  
the proposer ~~will~~ accept payment by means of a financial 129  
transaction device, including credit cards and debit cards, for 130  
all department of public safety transactions conducted at that 131  
deputy registrar location that are in excess of ten dollars. 132

~~A deputy registrar shall not be required to accept payment by~~ 133  
~~means of a financial transaction device unless the deputy~~ 134  
~~registrar agreed to do so in the deputy registrar's contract. The~~ 135  
~~bureau shall not be required to pay any costs incurred by a deputy~~ 136  
~~registrar who accepts payment by means of a financial transaction~~ 137  
~~device that result from the deputy registrar accepting payment by~~ 138  
~~means of a financial transaction device.~~ 139

(3) ~~A~~ In accordance with division (H)(1) of this section and 140  
rules adopted by the registrar, a county auditor or clerk of a 141  
court of common pleas that is designated a deputy registrar ~~may~~ 142  
~~choose to~~ shall accept payment by means of a financial transaction 143  
device, including credit cards and debit cards, for ~~all~~ department 144  
of public safety transactions that are in excess of ten dollars 145  
and are conducted at the office of the county auditor or clerk in 146  
the county auditor's or clerk's capacity as deputy registrar. ~~The~~ 147

~~bureau shall not be required to pay any costs incurred by a county auditor who accepts payment by means of a financial transaction device that result from the county auditor accepting payment by means of a financial transaction device for any such department of public safety transaction.~~

(I) For persons who reside in counties where tailpipe emissions inspections are required under the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program, the notice required by division (B) of this section shall also include the toll-free telephone number maintained by the Ohio environmental protection agency to provide information concerning the locations of emissions testing centers.

**Section 2.** That existing section 4503.102 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** Section 4503.102 of the Revised Code is presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both H.B. 13 and Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section as presented in this act.