



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Linda S. Crawford

S.B. 244

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Kearney, Skindell, Turner

BILL SUMMARY

- Generally requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and deputy registrars to accept credit and debit cards for Department of Public Safety transactions of more than \$10.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to allow payment by a credit or debit card or other authorized electronic payment, of charges for vehicle registrations, driver's licenses, and any other taxes, fees, penalties, or charges imposed or levied by the state that are in excess of \$10. The bill requires the Registrar to adopt rules as necessary to implement the program of accepting credit and debit cards for transactions over \$10. Current law allows the Registrar to implement such a program and adopt rules for that purpose, but current law does not establish a minimum amount for which a credit or debit card may be used and the Registrar has not adopted rules or implemented a general program for the use of these financial transaction devices.¹

To accommodate the cycle of deputy registrar contracts, the bill requires deputy registrars to accept credit and debit cards for the required transactions over \$10 beginning with deputy registrar contracts that have a start date of July 1, 2013 and to all contract awards after that date. The requirement to accept credit and debit cards for Department of Public Safety transactions that are over \$10 also applies to a county

¹ R.C. 4503.102(H)(1). Since the enactment of Am. Sub. S.B. 1 of the 117th General Assembly (effective November 28, 1988), the Registrar has been directed, in various ways, to allow the use of credit cards for various motor vehicle transactions.

auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas that is designated and acting as a deputy registrar.²

The bill eliminates each of the following provisions of current law: (1) a requirement for the Registrar to incorporate in the review process for awarding deputy registrar contracts a score for whether or not a proposer states that the proposer will accept payment by means of a financial transaction device, including credit cards and debit cards, (2) a statement establishing that a deputy registrar cannot be required to accept payment by means of a financial transaction device unless the deputy registrar agrees to do so in the deputy registrar's contract, and (3) a statement that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is not required to pay any costs incurred by a deputy registrar or county auditor who accepts credit or debit cards for Department of Public Safety transactions.³

The bill also makes nonsubstantive changes by removing obsolete language relating to deputy registrar fees that gradually increased between 2001 and 2004.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-31-11

S0244-I-129.docx/jc

² R.C. 4503.102(H)(2) and (3).

³ R.C. 4503.102(H)(2) and (3).

⁴ R.C. 4503.102(C) and (G).

