



ENACTMENT NEWS

Enacted House Bill 53 Transportation Budget

On April 1, 2015, Governor Kasich signed into law House Bill 53, the state's transportation budget bill. In addition to making biennial appropriations for the departments of Transportation and Public Safety, the bill makes a number of substantive policy changes. The provisions relevant to courts will take effect on June 30, 2015.

Probationary Drivers Licenses

Moving violations – judicial discretion

Under current law, if a sixteen- or seventeen-year-old has a probationary driver's license and commits a moving violation, courts are required to order that the driver must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when operating a motor vehicle, for a certain period of time. The bill now makes this discretionary: if a probationary-license holder is under the age of seventeen and commits a moving violation, the court *may* order that the driver must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when driving, for up to six months or until the driver reaches the age of seventeen, whichever happens first.

Driving privileges – limitations and exceptions

Current law gives probationary-license holders greater driving privileges when they reach the age of seventeen. The new law changes this from an age-based approach to an experience-based approach. Under the bill, probationary-license holders cannot drive between midnight and 6:00 a.m. without a parent or guardian present if they have had their license less than twelve months. After twelve months of possessing a probationary license, they cannot drive unaccompanied between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. (current law expands these privileges at age 17, regardless of how long the driver has had the probationary license). Current law provides an exception to this prohibition when the driver is driving to and from work. The bill adds school and religious functions to this exception.

Record sealing and CDL violations

The bill adds violations of the Commercial Driver's License law (R.C. 4506) to the list of convictions that cannot be sealed.

Recodification Committee

The bill also makes several changes with regard to the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, which was created during the last General Assembly. The bill adds three additional members to the Committee, including one Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Additionally, the bill extends from January 1, 2016 to August 1, 2016 the Committee's deadline for submitting its recommendations to the General Assembly.

For more information, visit the Enactments page of OJC website at www.ohiojudges.org