



Judicial Impact Statement

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US-Canada reciprocity for traffic citation enforcement

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Proposed Title Information

To amend sections of the revised code to authorize the registrar of the bureau of motor vehicles to enter into an agreement with a Canadian province for the purposes of establishing reciprocity for the enforcement of traffic citations.

Background and Judicial Impact

Many U.S. states, particularly northern border states like New York and Michigan, have established reciprocal agreements with the Province of Ontario for the purposes of enforcing traffic violations committed in one state or province by a resident of the other.

Ohio is not a member of such an agreement. While Ohio does not share a physical border with Canada, Canadian drivers are common to the northern part of our state, given the proximity of the border cities of Windsor and Niagara Falls, for example, to Lucas and Ashtabula counties, respectively. When a Canadian driver commits a traffic violation in Ohio, the lack of any kind of enforcement agreement permits the driver to return to Canada without facing any consequence for the violation of Ohio traffic law. Under a reciprocity agreement, participating states agree to give the same effect to a violation that occurs in the other state as though it had occurred in the home state of the driver. All that is required legislatively is that the General Assembly permit the registrar of the Ohio BMV to enter into such an agreement with the Province of Ontario.

What is a Judicial Impact Statement?

A Judicial Impact Statement describes as objectively and accurately as possible the probable, practical effects on Ohio's court system of the adoption of the particular bill. The court system includes people who use the courts (parties to suits, witnesses, attorneys and other deputies, probation officials, judges and others). The Ohio Judicial Conference prepares these statements pursuant to R.C. 105.911.

Conclusion

In order to ensure uniform enforcement of Ohio's traffic laws, we urge the General Assembly to pass legislation authorizing the registrar of the bureau of motor vehicles to enter into a reciprocity agreement with Ontario, Canada, for the purposes of traffic citation enforcement.