



ENACTMENT SUMMARY

House Bill 56

Penalties for fleeing from law enforcement; stunt driving

Effective October 24, 2024

On July 24, 2024, Governor DeWine signed into law House Bill 56 (Reps. Pummer and White). The bill changes the offense level for failing to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, and enacts new prohibitions pertaining to stunt driving.

Under prior law, a violation of R.C. 2921.331 (failing to comply with an order or signal of a police officer) was a first-degree misdemeanor. The bill changes this to a fourth-degree felony. The offense is third-degree felony (increased from a fourth-degree felony under prior law), subject to a prison term of up to sixty months if, in committing the offense, the person (1) operates a motor vehicle so as willfully to elude or flee a police officer after receiving a visible or audible signal from the officer to bring the vehicle to a stop, and (2) the trier of fact finds by proof beyond a reasonable doubt that, in committing the offense, the offender was fleeing immediately after the commission of a felony..

The bill amends R.C. 4511.251 (street racing) to also prohibit stunt driving and street takeovers. The bill defines “stunt driving” as performing or engaging in burnouts, donuts, drifting, or wheelies (all separately defined in the bill) or allowing a passenger to ride either partially or fully outside of the vehicle. The bill defines “street takeover” as blocking or impeding the regular flow of vehicle or pedestrian traffic on a public road, street, or highway or on private property that is open to the general public for the purpose of street racing or stunt driving. The offense is a first-degree misdemeanor.

The bill passed the Ohio House of Representatives by vote of 84-6 on December 13, 2023 and the Senate by a vote of 31-0 on June 26, 2024. The House concurred in Senate amendments by a vote of 91-1 on the same day. It was signed into law on July 24, 2024 and becomes effective on October 24, 2024.