



Ride Safety Changes Tabled for Now

The House State and Local Government Committee added a provision to [House Bill 238](#) that would have made significant changes to the permitting and inspection fees for inflatable rides.

The change would have reduced the fee for inflatable permits to \$25 and their inspection fees would be based on how many inflatables the permit holder owns.



- For an owner that owns one to ten inflatable rides, the owner shall pay a fee totaling one hundred fifty dollars for the inspection and reinspection of all such rides.
- For an owner that owns eleven to twenty-five inflatable rides, the owner shall pay a fee totaling three hundred fifty dollars for the inspection and reinspection of all such rides.
- For an owner that owns twenty-six or more inflatable rides, the owner shall pay a fee totaling five hundred dollars for the inspection and reinspection of all such rides.

Based on information provided by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, these changes would have cost the Division of Ride Safety by roughly \$500,000 and cause them to make difficult decisions with ride safety inspector layoffs. Eric German, representing GOSA, testified to concerns with the consequences of this proposal. Prior to testimony, the committee did adopt an amendment removing the fee changes for inflatable rides. However, the condition for removal was a guarantee from ODA that they will come up with a proposal to revise the fees and funding for the division of ride safety. They plan to begin those discussions at the ride safety meeting at the OFMA convention in January. The intent is to have a proposal to include in HB 238 when it is considered in the Ohio Senate.

A couple of inflatable ride companies testified to the fee structure and contend it is unequitable. Many members of the committee agree, so the message was ODA's feet will be held to the fire to come up with a new structure.

Issue 2 Update

In November, Ohio voters passed an initiated statute to legalize recreational marijuana. This officially went into effect December 7, 2023. The state will take several months to develop regulation for the cultivation and selling of the product in the market. So, practically, the provisions to go in effect are the state's legalization of using the product and the legalization of home grow.

The Ohio House, the Senate and the Governor's office are considering making changes to what was passed by the voters. The Governor's office and the Senate appear to want to make more wholesale changes to the law, while the House is more firm in respecting the will of the voters and not making drastic changes. Areas they are looking at are: the tax rate, limiting home growing of marijuana, further restrictions on public consumption, allowing local governments to further restrict use and growing, among other things. The Senate had hoped to have something passed in advance of the initiative going into effect December 7th, however, that deadline has passed. While they did pass a proposal that was incorporated into [House Bill 86](#) on December 6th, the House had already adjourned for the week. So, they won't be formally considering the Senate proposal until next week. The legislature is in session for the last time of 2023, the week of December 11th.

Game Rules Package

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has released a series of proposed changes to the rules governing games at fairs. GOSA had identified some issues and relayed those to the department. A new version of the package has been posted for official public comment and feedback was due by November 30, 2023. Among the changes proposed are: increasing from 3 to 5 the number of wins to get prize of choice in trade up games and removing the prohibition on plastic darts in dart games.

Food Safety Rule Update

The Ohio Department of Health has for years contemplated a proposal for requiring a person in charge certification for mobile food vendors. GOSA has been pushing back on proposals we deemed overly burdensome for the industry. On October 20, 2023, GOSA met with ODH leaders on their latest proposal on the topic.

This proposal would be in effect for new mobile units/licensees, not those that are already in operation. (Unless they are implicated in a foodborne illness outbreak). New license holders would need a PIC certified person at each event. So, if you have 4 concessions at the fair, you would only be required to have 1 PIC. It was asked how inspectors will know if the unit is old or new and ODH indicated it would be noted on the back of licenses. It was also clarified that failure to meet the requirement would be a non-critical violation.

ODH has officially filed this rule for public comment. The full package of changes can be found [here](#). ODA has also filed their rule generally aligning with ODH's proposal. The rules proposal also contains language defining low risk and high-risk mobiles. Based on our interpretation, all GOSA concessions would be considered "high risk". GOSA is pleased we were able to work on a reasonable compromise that won't require multiple PICs at a single event for a business.

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