



Ride Safety Fee Changes Being Discussed

Late last year, 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.

Fee Proposal Summary



Based on the directive from the General Assembly, ODA established new ride categories and established new inspection fees based on the average cost of inspection. Those fees are summarized below:

Ride Category	Permit Fee	Inspection Fee	Total Initial Permitting Cost	Cost Difference
Inflatables	\$100	\$50 - \$100	\$150 - 200	-\$124 to -\$174
Kiddie	\$225	\$150	\$350	\$50
Family	\$225	\$200	\$425	\$40
Major	\$225	\$300	\$525	\$140
Spectacular	\$225	\$400	\$625	\$240
Family/Portable Coaster	\$225	\$1200	\$1445	\$0
Tower	\$225	\$1800	\$2025	\$1640
Large Coaster	\$225	\$4000	\$4225	\$2800

Based on information provided by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, these changes would have cost the Division of Ride Safety roughly \$500,000 and caused them to make difficult decisions with ride safety inspector layoffs. Because of this impact, 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 would come up with a proposal to revise the fees and funding for the division of ride safety. The intent is to have a proposal to include in HB 238 when it is considered in the Ohio Senate.

The ODAg’s Ride Safety Advisory Council created a subcommittee to look at the issue. Any changes would need to go through the legislative process before being enacted. The subcommittee met on March 19th and ultimately unanimously voted to send the recommendations to the full advisory council for further review. The full council will meet on April 25, 2024 at 10am.

TechCred Program

The Office of Workforce Development announced their most recent opportunity for employers to apply for grants to cover the cost of upskilling employees with industry recognized credentials. the application period for Ohio employers opened March 1, 2024, and closed on March 29, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. The next application period will be **May 1 - 31, 2024**. **You would apply at TechCred.Ohio.Gov.**

NAARSO is one of the recognized credentials if you are interested in taking advantage of this program to help cover the cost of training.

Game Rules Package Finalized

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has released a series of proposed changes to the rules governing games at fairs. 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. These changes were recommended and requested by GOSA, so we appreciate their incorporation. The amended rules went into effect March 21, 2024.

Food Safety Rule Hearing Scheduled

The Ohio Department of Health has for years contemplated a proposal for requiring a person in charge certification for mobile food vendors. The proposal officially filed 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". A public hearing on the package is scheduled for April 18, 2024.

Mobile Food Legislation

Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson has introduced legislation regarding mobile food operation inspections. Under the provisions of [Senate Bill 203](#), fire code inspections and permits issued by fire code officials would be valid for 1 year (or the duration of the permit) and would generally require other local jurisdictions to accept the inspection report.

While the primary sponsor is a Democrat member of the Senate, there are a couple of Republican co-sponsors. So, the legislation could get some movement in the Chamber.

Primary Election Result

Ohioans went to the polls on March 19th for a primary election considering races for the state legislature, US Senate, US Congress, and Ohio Supreme Court. Overall turnout was very low with only about 20% of the electorate turning out to cast their ballots.

Races for the Ohio House on the Republican side drew a lot of attention as numerous incumbents saw challenges from within their own party. This can certainly be tied back to the 2023 vote for Speaker when 22 Republicans joined all House Democrats to elect Speaker Jason Stephens over Derek Merrin. These members ran without the endorsement of the Ohio Republican Party but did have the benefit of incumbency and, in most cases, a sizable fundraising advantage. We did see several incumbents upset by challengers. Those representatives not prevailing in their primaries were: Sara Carruthers (R), Jon Cross (R), Elliot Forhan (D), Brett Hillyer (R), and Gail Pavliga (R). OMTA was pleased to Representative DJ Swearingen make it through his primary with a sizable victory.

With the Presidential primary drawing little fanfare in Ohio, the spotlight was on the Republican Primary to nominate the candidate to challenge Senator Sherrod Brown. Bernie Moreno earned the backing of President Trump and Ohio's Republican US Senator JD Vance. Senator Matt Dolan earned high-profile endorsements from Governor Mike DeWine and former US Senator Rob Portman. Secretary of State Frank LaRose ran with the endorsement of Congressman Mike Turner and was the only candidate who had previously won a statewide election. It was Moreno that came out on top and will face off against Senator Brown in November in what is expected to be one of the most closely watched races in the country.

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