



Amusement Ride Fee Bill Introduced

Representatives Roy Klopfenstein and Sarah Fowler Arthur have introduced [House Bill 433](#) to enact the ride fee changes that were proposed in the budget but ultimately not included. The House had retained the Governor's proposal, but the Senate removed it. Supporters are working to reduce inflatable ride fees through stand-alone legislation. This bill is being considered by the House Agriculture Committee. A sponsor hearing was held on October 1, 2025. Additionally, the legislative aide for Representative Klopfenstein attended the meeting of the Amusement Ride Safety Council on October 2, 2025. At the meeting he indicated it is their intent to move the bill out of the House by the end of 2025.

A proponent and interested party hearing is scheduled for October 15, 2025.

Real Time Ride Update Legislation

Representative Sean Brennen has introduced [House Bill 488](#) that would require amusement parks to post real time updates regarding if rides are operational. While this bill is clearly intended for the large amusement ride parks like Cedar Point, the definition in the bill is very broad. Under the bill "amusement park" would mean: a fixed-site amusement facility open to the public for a defined or seasonal period each year that contains amusement rides that are inspected by the department of agriculture under this chapter. This bill will be considered by the House Agriculture Committee.

Amusement Ride Safety Council Updates

The Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety met on October 2, 2025. In addition to discussing HB 433, the discussed a couple of additional topics.

1. They will be being reviewing the rules regarding water parks and waterslides. If GOSA has any changes they would like to suggest for rules 901:9-1-11 through 901:9-1-20, please let me know. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-901:9-1>
2. The Council also discussed the possibility of exempting all playgrounds from licensing and inspection requirements. Currently there is an exemption in [993.10](#), but it doesn't apply if an admission fee is charged. So, the proposed change would be:
(C) Nonmechanized playground equipment, including swings, stationary spring-mounted animal features, rider-propelled merry-go-rounds, climbers, slides, rock climbing walls, trampolines, and swinging gates, ~~except where an admission fee is charged for usage or an admission fee is charged to areas where such equipment is located;~~

Youth Employment Bill Passes Senate

Senator Tim Schaffer has reintroduced GOSA supported legislation regarding youth employment. [Senate Bill 50](#) would allow those under 16 to be employed after 7pm during school year. It would state that with a parent or guardian's permission, those under 16 could work until 9pm. In the last session the Senate favorably passed the legislation, but it stalled in the House. The GOSA submitted proponent testimony for a hearing before the Senate Workforce Development Committee. SB 50 passed the Ohio Senate on April 9, 2025 by a vote of 24-9. The legislation is now being considered by the House Commerce and Labor. GOSA submitted proponent testimony before the House at the October 8, 2025 committee meeting. Other proponents include the NFIB Ohio and the Ohio Restaurant and Hospitality Alliance

Allergen Disclosures Legislation

Legislation has been reintroduced by Representatives Munira Abdullahi and Tom Young regarding food allergen disclosures on menus. [House Bill 364](#) would require all food service operations to denote on their menu (including menu boards) the food items that contain milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, or soybeans. This bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee and a sponsor hearing is scheduled for October 15, 2025.

Fire Code Changes Move Forward

The State Fire Marshal's office is finishing their revisions to the code. The fire code set the minimum standards for the state, but local jurisdictions can go above and beyond the state requirements. GOSA has been tracking changes that could impact our member businesses, particularly our mobile food concessions. Of particular concern would have been any proposal that required units be retro-fitted with fire suppression equipment.

Under the proposal: Mobile food preparation vehicles are "*Vehicles, including but not limited to any motorized vehicles, trailers and hand propelled carts, that are used to cook, prepare or serve food or that contain cooking equipment that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors for the purpose of preparing and serving food to the public.* Vehicles intended for private recreation shall not be considered mobile food preparation vehicles.

Regarding fire suppression systems for mobile food vendors, the code would specify:

New mobile food preparation vehicles. Vehicles that are manufactured or initially titled on or after May 1, 2026, and vehicles initially modified to operate as a mobile food preparation vehicle on or after May 1, 2026, shall not be operated as a mobile food preparation vehicle in this state unless such vehicle is protected by an automatic fire extinguishing system that is listed, labelled, installed and maintained in accordance with this section and Section 904.13.

Existing mobile food preparation vehicles. Mobile food preparation vehicles in operation as of the effective date of this code may continue to operate without a suppression system.

Exception: If any mobile food preparation vehicle that is in operation as of the effective date of this code undergoes a substantial modification to the cooking equipment in the vehicle on or after May 1, 2026, the mobile food preparation vehicle shall be protected by an automatic fire extinguishing system that is listed, labelled, installed and maintained in accordance with this section and Section 904.13.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 319.4.2, all mobile food preparation vehicles shall have a minimum of one 5-pound ABC portable fire extinguisher located within the vehicle and readily available to the operator of the vehicle.

A public hearing was held on these rules October 7, 2025. They will next go before JCARR for final review.

2026 Minimum Wage

Because of a voter passed initiative several years ago, Ohio's minimum wage is adjusted annual based on inflation. In 2026, the minimum wage increases to \$11 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$5.50 per hour for tipped workers.