



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5735.27 Distribution of amount credited to gasoline excise tax fund and highway operating fund.

Effective: October 3, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 33

(A) There is hereby created in the state treasury the gasoline excise tax fund. All investment earnings of the fund shall be credited to the fund. Revenue credited to the fund under section 5735.051 from the tax levied under section 5735.05 of the Revised Code shall be distributed to municipal corporations, counties, and townships as provided in divisions (A)(1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(1) The amount distributed to each municipal corporation shall be that proportion of the amount to be distributed among municipal corporations that the number of motor vehicles registered within the municipal corporation bears to the total number of motor vehicles registered within all the municipal corporations of this state during the preceding motor vehicle registration year. When a new village is incorporated, the registrar of motor vehicles shall determine from the applications on file in the bureau of motor vehicles the number of motor vehicles located within the territory comprising the village during the entire registration year in which the municipal corporation was incorporated. The registrar shall forthwith certify the number of motor vehicles so determined to the tax commissioner for use in distributing motor vehicle fuel tax funds to the village until the village is qualified to participate in the distribution of the funds pursuant to this division. The number of motor vehicle registrations shall be determined by the official records of the bureau of motor vehicles. The amount received by each municipal corporation shall be used to plan, construct, reconstruct, repave, widen, maintain, repair, clear, and clean public highways, roads, and streets; to maintain and repair bridges and viaducts; to purchase, erect, and maintain street and traffic signs and markers; to pay the costs apportioned to the municipal corporation under section 4907.47 of the Revised Code; to purchase, erect, and maintain traffic lights and signals; to pay the principal, interest, and charges on bonds and other obligations issued pursuant to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code or incurred pursuant to section 5531.09 of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring or constructing roads, highways, bridges, or viaducts or acquiring or making other highway improvements for which the municipal corporation may issue bonds; and to supplement revenue already available for these purposes.

(2) The amount distributed to counties shall be paid in equal proportions to the county treasurer of



each county within the state and shall be used only for the purposes of planning, maintaining, and repairing the county system of public roads and highways within the county; the planning, construction, and repair of walks or paths along county roads in congested areas; the planning, construction, purchase, lease, and maintenance of suitable buildings for the housing and repair of county road machinery, housing of supplies, and housing of personnel associated with the machinery and supplies; the payment of costs apportioned to the county under section 4907.47 of the Revised Code; the payment of principal, interest, and charges on bonds and other obligations issued pursuant to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code or incurred pursuant to section 5531.09 of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring or constructing roads, highways, bridges, or viaducts or acquiring or making other highway improvements for which the board of county commissioners may issue bonds under that chapter; and the purchase, installation, and maintenance of traffic signal lights.

(3)(a) The amounts described under divisions (A)(2)(a)(iii)(III) and (B)(2) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code to be distributed among townships shall be divided in equal proportions among the townships.

(b) As used in division (A)(3)(b) of this section, the "formula amount" for any township is the amount that would be allocated to that township if fifty per cent of the total amount credited to townships pursuant to divisions (A)(2)(b)(iii), (C)(2), and (E)(2)(c) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code were allocated among townships in the state proportionate to the number of centerline miles within the boundaries of the respective townships, as determined annually by the department of transportation, and the other fifty per cent of that amount were allocated among townships in the state proportionate to the number of motor vehicles registered within the respective townships, as determined annually by the records of the bureau of motor vehicles. The number of centerline miles within the boundaries of a township shall not include any centerline miles of township roads that have been placed on nonmaintained status by a board of township trustees pursuant to section 5571.20 of the Revised Code.

The portion of the revenue of the tax levied by section 5735.05 of the Revised Code that is described under divisions (A)(3) and (B) of that section shall be partially allocated to provide funding for townships. Each township shall receive the greater of the following two calculations:

(i) The total statewide amount credited to townships under divisions (A)(2)(b)(iii), (C)(2), and



(E)(2)(c) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code divided by the number of townships in the state at the time of the calculation;

(ii) Seventy per cent of the formula amount for that township.

(c) The total difference between the amount of money credited to townships under divisions (A)(2)(b)(iii), (C)(2), and (E)(2)(c) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code and the total amount of money required to make all the payments specified in division (A)(3)(b) of this section shall be deducted, in accordance with division (C)(3) of section 5735.051 of the Revised Code, from the revenues resulting from the portion of the revenue described in division (A)(3) of section 5735.05 of the Revised Code prior to crediting portions of such revenues to counties, municipal corporations, and the highway operating fund.

(d) All amounts credited pursuant to divisions (A)(3)(a) and (b) of this section shall be paid to the county treasurer of each county for the total amount payable to the townships within each of the counties. The county treasurer shall pay to each township within the county its proportional share of the funds, which shall be expended by each township only for the purposes of planning, constructing, maintaining, widening, and reconstructing the public roads and highways within the township, paying principal, interest, and charges on bonds and other obligations issued pursuant to Chapter 133. or 505. of the Revised Code or incurred pursuant to section 5531.09 of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring or constructing roads, highways, bridges, or viaducts or acquiring or making other highway improvements for which the board of township trustees may issue bonds under those chapters, and paying costs apportioned to the township under section 4907.47 of the Revised Code.

No part of the funds designated for road and highway purposes shall be used for any purpose except to pay in whole or part the contract price of any such work done by contract, or to pay the cost of labor in planning, constructing, widening, and reconstructing such roads and highways, and the cost of materials forming a part of the improvement; provided that the funds may be used for the purchase of road machinery and equipment, the planning, construction, purchase, and maintenance of suitable buildings for housing road machinery and equipment, and the payment of principal, interest, and charges on bonds and other obligations issued pursuant to Chapter 133. or 505. of the Revised Code for the purpose of purchasing road machinery and equipment or planning, constructing, purchasing, and maintaining suitable buildings for housing road machinery and equipment; and provided that all



such improvement of roads shall be under supervision and direction of the county engineer as provided in section 5575.07 of the Revised Code. No obligation against the funds shall be incurred unless plans and specifications for the improvement, approved by the county engineer, are on file in the office of the township fiscal officer, and all contracts for material and for work done by contract shall be approved by the county engineer before being signed by the board of township trustees. The board of township trustees of any township may pass a resolution permitting the board of county commissioners to expend the township's share of the funds, or any portion of it, for the improvement of the roads within the township as may be designated in the resolution.

(B) Amounts credited to the highway operating fund under section 5735.051 and other sections of the Revised Code are subject to transfer to the sinking fund upon receipt by the treasurer of state of the certification by the commissioners of the sinking fund, as required by section 5528.15 of the Revised Code, that there are sufficient moneys to the credit of the highway improvement bond retirement fund to meet in full all payments of principal, interest, and charges for the retirement of bonds and other obligations issued pursuant to Section 2g of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, and sections 5528.10 and 5528.11 of the Revised Code due and payable during the current calendar year. All remaining amounts credited to the highway operating fund shall be expended for the purposes of planning, maintaining, repairing, and keeping in passable condition for travel the roads and highways of the state required by law to be maintained by the department; paying the costs apportioned to the state under section 4907.47 of the Revised Code; paying that portion of the construction cost of a highway project which a county, township, or municipal corporation normally would be required to pay, but which the director of transportation, pursuant to division (B) of section 5531.08 of the Revised Code, determines instead will be paid from moneys in the highway operating fund; paying the costs of the department of public safety in administering and enforcing the state law relating to the registration and operation of motor vehicles; paying the state's share of the cost of planning, constructing, widening, maintaining, and reconstructing the state highways; paying that portion of the construction cost of a highway project which a county, township, or municipal corporation normally would be required to pay, but which the director of transportation, pursuant to division (B) of section 5531.08 of the Revised Code, determines instead will be paid from moneys in the highway operating fund; and also for supplying the state's share of the cost of eliminating railway grade crossings upon such highways and costs apportioned to the state under section 4907.47 of the Revised Code. The director of transportation may expend portions of such amount upon extensions of state highways within municipal corporations or upon portions of state highways within municipal



corporations, as is provided by law.

All investment earnings of the highway operating fund shall be credited to the fund.