



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5515.07 Use and control of rest areas - commercial activities prohibited.

Effective: September 29, 2017

Legislation: House Bill 49 - 132nd General Assembly

(A) The director of transportation, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules consistent with the safety of the traveling public and consistent with the national policy to govern the use and control of rest areas within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate highways and other state highways and in other areas within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate highways.

(B)(1) Except as provided in division (B)(2) of this section or as otherwise authorized by applicable federal law or federal regulations, no person shall engage in selling or offering for sale or exhibiting for purposes of sale, goods, products, merchandise, or services within the bounds of rest areas within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate highways and other state highways, or in other areas within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate highways, unless the director issues a permit in accordance with section 5515.01 of the Revised Code. Notwithstanding any rules adopted by the director to the contrary or any other policy changes proposed by the director, each district deputy director of the department of transportation shall continue to implement any program allowing organizations to dispense free coffee or similar items after obtaining a permit that operated within the district prior to January 1, 1997. Each district deputy director shall operate such program within the district in the same manner as the program was operated prior to that date.

(2) In accordance with rules adopted under division (A) of this section, the director may cause vending machines to be placed within each rest area that is able to accommodate the machines. The vending machines shall dispense food, drink, and other appropriate articles.

(3) The prohibition under division (B)(1) of this section does not apply to the sale of goods, products, merchandise, or services required for the emergency repair of motor vehicles or emergency medical treatment, or to the department of transportation as provided in section 5515.08 of the Revised Code.

(C) The director shall not close any rest area that is located within the limits of the right-of-way of a scenic byway designated under section 5516.05 of the Revised Code.