

Details on the Ohio Gas Tax Holiday

Ohio's legislature overwhelmingly approved legislation to enact a temporary suspension of the state Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax during a voting session on the last day of September.

The state effectively paused the collection of 38.5 cents per gallon of gasoline, and 47.0 cents per gallon of diesel fuel, just after midnight on Sunday, October 4. The tax will remain suspended for 90 days until midnight on January 2, 2027.

Lawmakers were able to ensure that road and infrastructure projects funded by the tax would be protected by transferring \$725 million in reserve funds.

The law requires fuel retailers to pass along the full value of the tax savings directly to consumers at the pump. Failure to transfer these savings to consumers may be treated as an unfair or deceptive act and is subject to referral to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Gas stations generally need to sell out of existing inventory purchased at the full tax rate before they replenish supplies with fuel at the discounted rate, although some stations posted lower prices immediately.

While not a permanent solution to rising fuel prices, the action does provide some relief in Ohio both for individual consumers through the amount they pay to fill a tank, and households and businesses which have seen cost increases on products shipped within the state.

The gas tax suspension can also have an additional positive effect on travel economy businesses by lowering one of the key expenses for families during the busy fall and holiday travel periods.

Both candidates for Ohio Governor, Democrat Amy Acton and Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, called for the gas tax holiday. The Ohio Senate passed the bill containing the language to suspend the tax by a vote of 26 to 5, and the House voted to concur 78 to 16.

OHLA-backed Car Theft Bill Passes General Assembly

The gas tax holiday was enacted when lawmakers added that language to another important bill, H.B. 519, sponsored by State Rep. Andrea White (R-Kettering).

This newly-enacted law is one step in fighting car break-ins and thefts and will specify that anyone in possession of electronic devices with the intent to commit theft is guilty of the offense of possessing criminal tools, and increasing the penalty to a fourth-degree felony.

OHLA has emphasized to lawmakers that these types of crimes by habitual offenders are crippling businesses in some areas of the state and are leading to increased costs, lost business, personal safety issues, and reputational damage to our destinations. While this is an important piece of an overall approach, OHLA is supporting additional legislation to fight this problem. For more information or questions, email joe@ohla.org or call OHLA at 614-461-6462.