



ENACTMENT SUMMARY

HB 519 **Possessing criminal tools** Effective December 30, 2026

On October 1, 2026, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 519 (Rep. White) into law. The bill expands the offense of possessing criminal tools, and also includes provisions temporarily suspending Ohio's gas tax.

Existing R.C. 2923.24 (possessing criminal tools) provides that "[n]o person shall possess or have under the person's control any substance, device, instrument, or article, with purpose to use it criminally." The statute currently lists certain actions that constitute prima facie evidence of a criminal purpose. H.B. 519 expands this list to include "[p]ossession or control of an electronic device or tool under circumstances indicating an intent to commit a theft offense that involves a motor vehicle." The bill defines "electronic device or tool" to mean "a device or tool designed or adapted for use in unlocking or turning on a motor vehicle and does not include a previously issued or activated electronic card, key, or other electronic device assigned to the lawful owner of a motor vehicle."

Possessing criminal tools becomes an F4 under the bill if the circumstances indicate that an electronic device or tool was involved in the offense.

The House of Representatives passed the bill on November 19, 2025 by a vote of 82-0, and the Ohio Senate passed the bill on September 30, 2026 by a vote of 28-3, with language added to temporarily suspend Ohio's gasoline tax, as an emergency measure. The House voted the same day to approve the Senate changes, by a vote of 78-16. The bill was signed into law on October 1, 2026 with the provisions pertaining to the gas tax taking effect immediately, and the remaining portions taking effect on December 30, 2026.