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S.B. 229
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Romanchuk

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

DETAILED ANALYSIS

License Plate	Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate, which must display the words "LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPLE HEART" and, when eligible, the International Symbol of Access (which grants accessible parking privileges). ¹
Recipients	Available only to a person who has been awarded the Law Enforcement Purple Heart.
Eligible Vehicles	Any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, or other vehicle approved by the Registrar.
Contribution; Additional BMV Fee; Use of Contribution	No required contribution. No additional administrative BMV fee. The standard license plate and motor vehicle registration taxes and fees are waived for recipients of this specialty license plate. ²
Requirements for Issuance	1. Submission of an application; 2. Submission of documentary evidence demonstrating the applicant received the Law Enforcement Purple Heart and, if necessary, documentary

¹ R.C. 4503.472(A). Similar to the military Purple Heart, the Law Enforcement Purple Heart is issued to officers who are injured or disabled in the line of duty. See the National Association of Chiefs of Police website for more information and for an example of the qualifications: nacoponline.org.

² R.C. 4503.472(B).

	evidence demonstrating the applicant has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk; and 3. Compliance with all other relevant laws relating to motor vehicle registration.
Combined with Special Reserved License Plate	May be combined with a special reserved license plate provided in current law at 75% of the normal cost. ³
Special restrictions	Prohibits any person who is not a recipient of the Law Enforcement Purple Heart to willfully and falsely represent that he or she received that award to obtain the license plate. Prohibits any person from knowingly owning a motor vehicle with the specialty license plate unless the person is eligible for that license plate. Requires the specialty license plate to be replaced if the motor vehicle ownership is transferred after the death of the license plate recipient. Makes violation of any of the above a fourth degree misdemeanor. ⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-07-25
Reported, S. Transportation	10-29-25
Passed Senate (33-0)	11-05-25

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³ R.C. 4503.472(B).

⁴ R.C. 4503.472(C) and (D).