



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Amanda M. Ferguson

### S.B. 202

131st General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Sen. Thomas

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Specifies that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle when required by law is a secondary traffic offense.
- Establishes a maximum fine of \$25 for failure to display a license plate on the front of a vehicle.
- Specifies that the bill is to be known as the "DuBose Was A Beacon Act."

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle

The bill makes failing to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle when required by law a secondary traffic offense. In doing so, the bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from doing either of the following *solely* because the owner or operator has failed to display a front license plate:

(1) Stopping the motor vehicle to issue a ticket, citation, or summons for the violation, or causing the arrest or commencing a prosecution of the operator for the violation; or

(2) Issuing a ticket, citation, or summons to the owner of a parked motor vehicle for the violation, or causing the arrest or commencing the prosecution of such owner for the violation.

In order to enforce the prohibition against failing to display a front license plate, a law enforcement officer must have some other valid reason to stop or cite the owner or operator of the motor vehicle. The other valid reason could be that the law

enforcement officer observed the vehicle operator commit an additional traffic offense, such as failure to yield the right-of-way.<sup>1</sup>

Under the bill, failing to display a front license plate when required by law is a minor misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$25. The bill further states that no points may be assessed on a person's license for this violation.<sup>2</sup>

Current law states that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle when required by law also is a minor misdemeanor. However, the maximum fine for the offense is \$150. In addition, the violation is a primary offense, which means a person could be issued a ticket, citation, summons, or be arrested or stopped solely for committing such a violation.<sup>3</sup>

The bill also provides that it is to be known as the "DuBose Was A Beacon Act."<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	08-13-15

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4503.21(B) and 4511.043.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.21(C)(2).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 2929.28, not in the bill, and 4503.21(C)(1).

<sup>4</sup> Section 6.

