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H.B. 578*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Transportation and Public Safety

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

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SUMMARY

- Designates multiple highways and bridges.
- Creates six specialty license plates.
- Renames the “Fallen Linemen” license plate as the “Fallen Lineworkers” license plate, and makes other changes regarding that license plate.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Highway and bridge designations

The bill designates the following highways and an overpass. It authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highways and the overpass indicating their names.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
“Ohio State Highway Patrol MCEI Kimra Skelton Memorial Highway” ¹	I-75 between State Route (SR) 41 and United States Route (USR) 36 in Miami County	Kimra J. Skelton was a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector (MCEI) for the Piqua District of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. On November 27, 2019, while working on duty at a traffic crash in Troy, she was

*This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5534.417.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		parked in a crossover where she was struck and killed by a vehicle.
"Captain 'smokey' Carl Edward Summers Memorial Highway" ²	USR 42 between Richman Road and Vandemark Road in Medina County	Captain 'smokey' Carl Edward Summers was a captain with the Lodi Police Department who died on December 10, 1977, after being intentionally hit with a motor vehicle while investigating an auto theft.
"Sherriff Fredrick J. Abdalla Memorial Highway" ³	SR 7 in the municipal corporation of Stratton in Jefferson County	Fredrick Abdalla served two years in the U.S. Army in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and earned numerous decorations for his military service. He served 37 years as the Jefferson County Sheriff.
"Roberty E. Turney Memorial Highway" ⁴	USR 36 between County Road (CR) 62 and CR 416 in Tuscarawas County	Robert E. Turney served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the North Africa campaign in 1943, where he remained with a wounded soldier, even though remaining resulted in both being captured. Remarkably, they were released after a few days. After returning home after the war, he worked for the Ohio Department of Transportation from 1945 to 1978, and passed away on

² R.C. 5534.434.

³ R.C. 5534.435.

⁴ R.C. 5534.54.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		October 15, 1989.
"Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson Memorial Overpass" ⁵	The Johnson Drive overpass over USR 250 in the municipal corporation of Uhrichsville in Tuscarawas County	Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson was killed in action on February 9, 1968, in Quang Nam, South Vietnam, during the Vietnam War. Specialist Johnson was directing his squad in its assault of an enemy bunker when he was mortally wounded by sniper fire. He was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for his actions on that day.
"Veterans Legacy Highway" ⁶	SR 44 between USR 322 and SR 87 in Geauga County	Honors all U.S. veterans. Geauga County's Veterans Legacy Woods is located along the highway.
"Putnam County Veterans Memorial Highway" ⁷	USR 224 between eastern border of Putnam County and western border of Putnam County	Honors Putnam County veterans.
"Sgt. Cameron H. Thomas Memorial Highway" ⁸	SR 48 between Stroop Road and David Road in Montgomery County	Sgt. Cameron H. Thomas was killed in action on April 27, 2017, in Afghanistan, as a result of small arms fire during combat operations as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

⁵ R.C. 5534.608.

⁶ R.C. 5534.641.

⁷ R.C. 5534.836.

⁸ R.C. 5534.845.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Sgt. Kevin J. Lannon Memorial Highway" ⁹	SR 48 between David Road and Rahn Road in Montgomery County	Sgt. Kevin J. Lannon was killed in action on October 25, 1983, in Grenada, during Operation Urgent Fury, which was conducted to protect American citizens living in the country.
"Teresa Miller-Martin 9/11 Memorial Highway" ¹⁰	SR 19 between Link Road and I-90 in Sandusky County	Teresa Martin was a civilian employee with the U.S. Army who was killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on 9/11/2001.
"Lester and Mary Oeder Memorial Highway" ¹¹	USR 22 between Stubbs Mills Road and Zoar Road in Warren County	Lester Oeder was a well-known local businessman from Morrow, Ohio (died on December 28, 2010) and Mary Oeder was his wife for over 77 years (died on March 19, 2015). They both died peacefully at home.
"Clarence 'sonny' Smith, Jr. Memorial Highway" ¹²	SR 7 between Washington Boulevard and Western Reserve Road in Mahoning County	Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. was a prominent businessman in the Youngstown, Ohio area who led Diamond Steel Construction Company, Compco Industries and its affiliates, and Adamas Gems & Jewelry.
"Dr. Steven Takacs Memorial Highway" ¹³	SR 87 between SR 44 and Sperry Road in Geauga County	Dr. Steven Takacs operated a family practice in Newbury Township (Newbury Family

⁹ R.C. 5534.845.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.889.

¹¹ R.C. 5534.915.

¹² R.C. 5534.921.

¹³ R.C. 5534.924.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Practice) for nearly 30 years. Notably he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves and held numerous community positions. He died of ALS on June 20, 2020.

New specialty license plates

The bill creates six new specialty license plates. The plates are available to the general public, but require a person to pay an annual contribution when the plate is issued and renewed. The contributions are deposited into the existing License Plate Contribution Fund and later disbursed to the appropriate organizations that receive the contributions. Those organizations work with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to determine the appropriate logo and words that are displayed on the plates.

In addition to the contribution, the person receiving the specialty license plate must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The fee's purpose is to compensate the BMV for the additional services required to issue each specialty license plate. The BMV fee is deposited into the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund. All other registration requirements apply to the new plates. The new plates may be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar.

The new specialty license plates created by the bill are set forth in the following table.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ¹⁴
"Recovery is Beautiful" license plate ¹⁵	National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI) Ohio, Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery	\$20	Contributions must be paid equally to NAMI Ohio and OCAAR.

¹⁴ R.C. 4501.21.

¹⁵ R.C. 4503.519.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ¹⁴
	(OCAAR), Ohio Peer Recovery Organizations, the Ohio Council, and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities		
"P.A.W.S." license plate ¹⁶	Progressive Animal Welfare Society Adoption Center, Inc.	\$25	To support the activities of the Center.
"Shriners" license plate ¹⁷	Antioch Shrine Foundation	\$15	No purpose specified for the contributions.
"Ohio House Rabbit Rescue" license plate ¹⁸	Ohio House Rabbit Rescue	\$15	For rescue adoption and educational programs.
"Revere Local Schools" license plate ¹⁹	Revere Schools Foundation	\$25	To promote the Foundation's mission, including awarding scholarships to honor young people who are meaningfully engaged in their community. The Foundation is prohibited from using the contributions for any political purpose.
"Stephen T. Badin High School" license plate	Stephen T. Badin High School	\$30	No purpose specified for the contributions.

¹⁶ R.C. 4503.582.

¹⁷ R.C. 4503.704.

¹⁸ R.C. 4503.741.

¹⁹ R.C. 4503.885.

Fallen Lineworkers License Plate

The bill renames the “Fallen Linemen” license plate as the “Fallen Lineworkers” license plate. It also changes the organization designated to receive the \$10 contributions from the sale of the license plate from the Fallen Linemen Organization to the Community Foundation of Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives. Finally, it adds that the contributions may be used by the Foundation to recognize and memorialize injured lineworkers and support their families (rather than to memorialize only fallen lineworkers and support their families, as in current law).²⁰

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-01-22
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	---

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²⁰ R.C. 4501.21 and 4503.715.