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S.B. 15
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

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SUMMARY

- Creates a permanent motor vehicle registration option for retired military veterans within the existing Military License Plate Program.
- Waives standard motor vehicle registration taxes and fees (after the first year of registration) for a retired military veteran who registers a motor vehicle under the Program.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Permanent registration for retired military veterans

The bill authorizes a retired military veteran to apply for a permanent motor vehicle registration through the existing Military License Plate Program. The administrative program includes a variety of military license plates that are designed to recognize specific military branches, particular combat zones, or service medals that a veteran was awarded. Under current law, qualified veterans may apply for and renew their motor vehicle registrations annually or for multiple years (up to five years) but there is no permanent registration option.¹

The bill specifies that a retired military veteran applying for permanent registration is responsible for the standard registration taxes and fees for one year of registration at the time of the application.² However, after that year, the veteran is not required to pay the registration taxes and fees for the subsequent years of registration on that motor vehicle while that veteran

¹ R.C. 4503.29.

² Registration taxes and fees include the base vehicle tax (R.C. 4503.04), the base BMV registration fees (R.C. 4503.10, 4503.102, and 4503.103), local motor vehicle taxes (Chapter 4504), and any deputy registrar fee (R.C. 4503.038).

owns it. If the veteran transfers title to the motor vehicle, the registration tax and fee waiver does not transfer with the vehicle. If the veteran registers any additional motor vehicles, the veteran may register them permanently through the program, but will be responsible for the first year of vehicle registration taxes and fees.³

Retired military veteran

A retired military veteran, is any individual who is eligible for retired pay as a member of the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard) or the uniformed services (including the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service).⁴ A veteran may apply for and select any military license plate design offered under the Military License Plate Program that the veteran is eligible to receive based on that veteran's service and awards.

Military-related vehicle registration exceptions

Generally, military veterans who apply for or renew their motor vehicle registrations under the program can get the physical license plates for free (a savings of between \$6.50 and \$7.50), but still pay the standard registration taxes and fees.⁵ However, there is an exception for military veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 100% by the federal Veterans' Administration.⁶ Those disabled veterans can get the "Disabled Veterans" license plates or a plate recognizing that veteran's specific service or awards without paying registration taxes or fees.⁷ Additionally, current law allows a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, a former prisoner of war, a Purple Heart recipient, and a Gold Star family member to get license plates reflecting that status or honor without paying registration taxes or fees.⁸ Of those license plates, the "Disabled Veterans," the "Prisoner of War," and the "Congressional Medal of Honor" license plates are currently the only permanent registrations.⁹

³ R.C. 4503.29(D)(2)(c); conforming changes in R.C. 4503.10, 4503.11, and 4503.191.

⁴ R.C. 4503.29(D)(2)(c); see also [10 United States Code §101](#), which is available on the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representative's website: <https://uscode.house.gov/>.

⁵ R.C. 4503.29(D)(2)(a); R.C. 4503.19(A)(5), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 4503.29(D)(2)(b).

⁷ R.C. 4503.41, not in the bill. A disabled veteran may only receive the benefit of obtaining license plates without paying registration taxes and fees for up to two vehicles total. R.C. 4503.29(D)(2)(b); R.C. 4503.41(C), not in the bill.

⁸ R.C. 4503.43, 4503.46, 4503.546, and 4503.571, not in the bill.

⁹ Email communication with spokesperson for the Department of Public Safety, July 15, 2022.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-11-23
