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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 544
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 544's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Transportation and Public Safety

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- If the demand for the “Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” license plate reaches the minimum threshold of 150 plates, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will: (1) gain at least \$1,500 in additional fee revenues and (2) incur at least \$615 in license plate production costs; the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad will receive at least \$2,250 in contributions.
- Beginning in the second year, if the license plate stays in circulation, the BMV will gain at least \$250 in additional revenues and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad will receive at least \$375 in contributions. The annual production costs for the license plate will total \$4.10 for each new set issued.
- The actual BMV fee revenue and cost, as well as contributions to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, will depend upon demand for the license plate each year.
- The license plate is subject to the minimum registration requirements of 150 applicants for the first year and 25 applicants annually thereafter.
- A person who applies for the special license plate is required to pay \$25 in additional money, consisting of a \$10 BMV administrative fee and a \$15 contribution for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.
- The bill will have no direct fiscal effect on any of the state’s political subdivisions.

Detailed Analysis

“Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” license plate

The bill creates the “Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” license plate that is available to all persons with an eligible vehicle registered in Ohio. As summarized in the table below, a person

applying for the plate must pay: (1) a \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) administrative fee and (2) a \$15 contribution to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

“Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” License Plate			
Special License Plate	BMV Fee	Required Contribution	Contribution Recipient
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad	\$10	\$15	Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

License plate implementation and termination procedures

Under existing law, a special license plate generally is subject to a minimum registration requirement and to related termination and revival procedures. For example, the BMV Registrar is not required to implement any legislation that creates a new license plate until the Registrar receives written statements from at least 150 persons indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain the special license plate (R.C. 4503.78). If, during any calendar year, the total number of new and renewal motor vehicle registrations involving a license plate totals less than 25, the issuance of that license plate may cease as of December 31 of the following year (R.C. 4503.77).

Production costs and administrative fees

The BMV currently produces special license plates via a digital print-on-demand process. The total cost to produce a pair of these plates is \$4.10.¹ Under the bill, a person obtaining a “Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” license plate must pay an administrative fee of \$10, the purpose of which is to compensate the BMV for additional services required in issuing the plate. The administrative fees will be credited to the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5TM0), which is used in part to pay the BMV’s expenses related to titling motor vehicles, licensing drivers, and registering motor vehicles.

- Assuming the license plate satisfies the minimum 150-person registration requirement, then, in the first year, the annual production costs for the license plate will total \$615 (150 persons x \$4.10) and the administrative fees collected will total \$1,500 (150 persons x \$10).
- Assuming the license plate, in subsequent years, satisfies the minimum 25-person registration requirement (new and renewals), the administrative fees collected will total \$250 (25 persons x \$10). The annual production costs for the license plate will total \$4.10 for each new set issued.

¹ Effective July 1, 2020, H.B. 62 of the 133rd General Assembly replaces the two license plate requirement that is currently in effect for most motor vehicles, including passenger cars, with a single license plate requirement. As a result, special license plate production costs may decrease by some amount.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

The \$15 contribution paid for the issuance of the “Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad” license plate will be credited to the existing License Plate Contribution Fund (Fund 5V10) and then paid to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad is a private nonprofit organization that operates in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park located in northeast Ohio.

- Assuming that the demand satisfies the minimum threshold, then, in its first year, the license plate will generate \$2,250 (150 applicants x \$15 contribution) in contributions for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.
- In each subsequent year, at least 25 persons must purchase the license plate; otherwise, it is subject to termination under existing law. Assuming that the demand satisfies the minimum threshold to avoid termination, the license plate will generate \$375 (25 applicants x \$15 contribution) for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.