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S.B. 163*
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Transportation and Public Safety

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Kunze

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

Nonstandard license plates

- Creates 23 new nonstandard license plates.
- Authorizes a person who is eligible for both a Purple Heart license plate and a license plate imprinted with the International Symbol of Access to apply for a single plate that displays both symbols.
- Redirects, from the Great River Council of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland, the "Girl Scouts" license plate contributions.
- Authorizes any person to purchase and display the "Freemason" license plate and adds a \$15 contribution for purchase of that license plate.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Nonstandard license plates

The bill creates 23 new nonstandard license plates and makes changes to the "Girl Scout" license plate, the "Purple Heart" license plate, and the "Freemason" license plate. For 21 of the 22 new license plates that are available to the general public, the bill requires a person to pay an annual contribution of varying amounts when the license plate is issued or renewed. The new Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police license plate is available only to a

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

member or staff of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, or that person's spouse, but also includes an annual contribution.¹

Most contributions must be deposited into the License Plate Contribution Fund. In addition to the contribution, a person also must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The purpose of the BMV fee is to compensate the BMV for the additional services required to issue each nonstandard plate. The BMV fee must be deposited into the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund. All other registration requirements apply to the new plates.

The new license plates may be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Changes to existing license plates

First, the bill redirects the contributions collected from the issuance of the "Girl Scouts" license plate to the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland (instead of to the Great River Council of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America).²

Second, if a person meets the eligibility requirements for both the "Purple Heart" license plate and a license plate imprinted with the International Symbol of Access (indicating that the person is disabled), the applicant may apply to have a "Purple Heart" license plate also display the Access symbol. The application for the variation on the "Purple Heart" license plate must be accompanied by evidentiary documentation that supports both the award and the disability.³

Finally, the bill authorizes any person to purchase and display the "Freemason" license plate. Under current law, only a member in good standing with the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio is allowed to apply for, purchase, and display the "Freemason" license plate. The bill adds a \$15 contribution for purchase of the license plate, which must be paid to the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio to be used for scholarship purposes.⁴

New license plates

The new license plates created by the bill are set forth in the following table, which includes a description of each:

¹ R.C. 4503.714.

² R.C. 4503.68.

³ R.C. 4503.571 and 4503.44, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 4501.21 and 4503.70.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
Ohio DeMolay license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Ohio DeMolay and approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. ⁵	\$15 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Ohio DeMolay must use the contributions for scholarships, educational programs, and any other programs or events the organization holds or sponsors in Ohio. ⁶
Ronald McDonald House Charities license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Ronald McDonald House Charities and approved by the Registrar. ⁷	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The Central Ohio Chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities must distribute the contributions to the Chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities in whose geographic territory the people who paid the contributions reside. ⁸
Stop Elder Abuse license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words selected by the Registrar. ⁹	\$10 additional BMV fee.	Not applicable.
Ohio Sons of the American Legion license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Ohio Sons of the American Legion and approved by the Registrar. ¹⁰	\$10 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The Ohio Sons of the American Legion must use the contributions to support the activities of the organization. ¹¹

⁵ R.C. 4503.506.

⁶ R.C. 4501.21. DeMolay is an organization for young men, aged 12 to 21, and focuses on developing civic awareness, personal responsibility, and leadership skills.

⁷ R.C. 4503.557.

⁸ R.C. 4501.21.

⁹ R.C. 4503.558.

¹⁰ R.C. 4503.581.

¹¹ R.C. 4501.21.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Cuyahoga Scenic Valley Railroad and approved by the Registrar. ¹²	\$15 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The bill does not specify how contributions must be used by the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. ¹³
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and approved by the Registrar. ¹⁴	\$10 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The bill does not specify how contributions must be used by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. ¹⁵
Fallen Timbers Battlefield license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission and approved by the Registrar. ¹⁶	\$20 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission must use the contributions to further the mission of the Commission. ¹⁷
ALS Awareness license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter and the ALS Association Northern Ohio Chapter and approved by the Registrar. ¹⁸	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter must split contributions between that Chapter and the ALS Association Northern Ohio Chapter, as agreed upon between the two Chapters. The Chapters must use the contributions to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people

¹² R.C. 4503.596.

¹³ R.C. 4501.21.

¹⁴ R.C. 4503.714.

¹⁵ R.C. 4501.21.

¹⁶ R.C. 4503.716.

¹⁷ R.C. 4501.21.

¹⁸ R.C. 4503.725.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
		affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. ¹⁹
Folds of Honor license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Folds of Honor of Central Ohio and approved by the Registrar. ²⁰	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Folds of Honor of Central Ohio must use the contributions to provide scholarships to a spouse or child either of disabled veterans or of members of any branch of the armed forces who died during their service. ²¹
La Salle High School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of La Salle High School, located in Cincinnati, and approved by the Registrar. ²²	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	La Salle High School may not use the contributions for any political purpose. ²³
St. Charles Preparatory School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of St. Charles Preparatory School, located in Columbus, and approved by the Registrar. ²⁴	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	St. Charles Preparatory School must use the contributions for the school's alumni association and the alumni association's purposes. ²⁵
Harrison Central Huskies license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Harrison Central Jr./Sr. High School, located in Cadiz, and approved by the Registrar. ²⁶	\$20 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The bill does not specify how contributions are to be used by Harrison Central Jr./Sr. High School. ²⁷

¹⁹ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁰ R.C. 4503.767.

²¹ R.C. 4501.21.

²² R.C. 4503.881.

²³ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁴ R.C. 4503.883.

²⁵ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁶ R.C. 4503.893.

²⁷ R.C. 4501.21.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
Cleveland Clinic Children’s license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words selected by representatives of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and approved by the Registrar. ²⁸	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	The Cleveland Clinic Foundation must use the contributions to support Cleveland Clinic Children’s education, research, and patient services. ²⁹
Healthy New Albany license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Healthy New Albany and approved by the Registrar. ³⁰	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Healthy New Albany must use the contributions for its community programs, events, and activities. ³¹
Habitat for Humanity of Ohio license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, Inc. and approved by the Registrar. ³²	\$20 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, Inc. must use the contributions for its projects related to building affordable houses. ³³
Zero license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Zero, The End of Prostate Cancer, Inc. and approved by the Registrar. ³⁴	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Zero, The End of Prostate Cancer, Inc., must use the contributions to raise awareness of prostate cancer, to support research to end prostate cancer, and to support prostate cancer patients and their families. ³⁵

²⁸ R.C. 4503.899.

²⁹ R.C. 4501.21.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.931.

³¹ R.C. 4501.21.

³² R.C. 4503.932.

³³ R.C. 4501.21.

³⁴ R.C. 4503.942.

³⁵ R.C. 4501.21.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
Summit Metro Parks license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of the Summit Metro Parks Foundation and approved by the Registrar. ³⁶	\$10 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Summit Metro Parks Foundation must use the contributions to support the Summit County Metro Parks. ³⁷
Liberty Center Local Schools license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Liberty Center Local School District and approved by the Registrar. ³⁸	\$25 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Liberty Center Local School District must use the contributions for its gifted programs and for special education and related services. ³⁹
John F. Kennedy School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of John F. Kennedy School, located in Warren, and approved by the Registrar. ⁴⁰	\$20 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	John F. Kennedy School may not use the contributions for any political purposes. ⁴¹
Elder High School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Elder High School, located in Cincinnati, and approved by the Registrar. ⁴²	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Elder High School must use the contributions as follows: 50% to provide tuition assistance to its students; 25% to benefit arts and enrichment at the school; and 25% to benefit athletics at the school. ⁴³

³⁶ R.C. 4503.945.

³⁷ R.C. 4501.21.

³⁸ R.C. 4503.956.

³⁹ R.C. 4501.21.

⁴⁰ R.C. 4503.957.

⁴¹ R.C. 4501.21.

⁴² R.C. 4503.958.

⁴³ R.C. 4501.21.

Nonstandard license plate	Contribution? Additional BMV fee?	Use of Contribution
Fairfield Senior High School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Fairfield Senior High School, located in Fairfield, and approved by the Registrar. ⁴⁴	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Fairfield Senior High School may not use the contributions for any political purposes. ⁴⁵
Hamilton High School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Hamilton High School, located in Hamilton, and approved by the Registrar. ⁴⁶	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Hamilton High School may not use the contributions for any political purposes. ⁴⁷
Ross High School license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words, selected by representatives of Ross High School, located in Ross Township in Butler County, and approved by the Registrar. ⁴⁸	\$30 contribution plus \$10 additional BMV fee.	Ross High School may not use the contributions for any political purposes. ⁴⁹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-28-19
Reported, S. Transportation, Commerce & Workforce	01-29-20
Passed Senate (32-0)	02-05-20
Reported, H. Transportation and Public Safety	---

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⁴⁴ R.C. 4503.961.⁴⁵ R.C. 4503.21.⁴⁶ R.C. 4503.962.⁴⁷ R.C. 4503.21.⁴⁸ R.C. 4503.963.⁴⁹ R.C. 4503.21.