



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Final Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

Sub. H.B. 194

132nd General Assembly
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

- Reps.** T. Johnson and Craig, Anielski, Arndt, Boccieri, Butler, Conditt, Dean, Dever, Ginter, Gonzales, Keller, Landis, Riedel, Ryan, Stein, Strahorn, Thompson, Wiggam, Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Householder, Howse, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Reece, West, Antonio, Barnes, Boyd, Brenner, Brown, Clyde, Cupp, Duffey, Edwards, Fedor, Galonski, Gavarone, Hagan, Hambley, Hill, Holmes, Ingram, Kent, Kick, Lanese, Lang, LaTourette, Leland, McColley, Miller, O'Brien, Patmon, Patterson, Patton, Ramos, Reineke, Retherford, Rogers, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Slaby, K. Smith, Sprague, Sweeney, Young
- Sens.** Uecker, Terhar, Wilson, Hackett, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Burke, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Gardner, Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, Kunze, LaRose, Lehner, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Skindell, Sykes, Tavares, Thomas, Williams

Effective date: June 29, 2018

ACT SUMMARY

Military nonstandard license plate program

- Requires the Director of Veterans Services and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to develop a program to issue nonstandard license plates recognizing military service and military honors.
- Requires the Director and Registrar to adopt rules to establish the program, including eligibility criteria, guidelines for the designs, and the necessary documentation for the military nonstandard license plates.
- Repeals the statutes governing most of the codified military nonstandard license plates, but requires all of them to be reestablished under the program.
- Requires the Registrar to continue issuing the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.

* This version updates the effective date.

- Requires the Registrar to create the "Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal," the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates in accordance with the rules adopted under the act.

Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus

- Modifies the membership of the Board of Directors of the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum, including eliminating the requirement that a majority of appointees be veterans of the armed forces of the United States.
- Establishes the National Veterans Advisory Committee.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Military nonstandard license plate program

The act requires the Director of Veterans Services and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to develop a program to establish and issue nonstandard license plates that recognize military service and military honors pertaining to valor and service.¹ The program is an alternative to creating and redesigning those types of license plates through legislation.

Rules for the program

The act requires the Director and Registrar to jointly adopt rules to establish the program. The rules must be adopted as soon as possible, but not later than March 29, 2019 (nine months after the act's effective date).² In addition to establishing nonstandard license plates recognizing military service and military honors, the rules must also establish:

- (1) Eligibility criteria for creating new nonstandard license plates;
- (2) Requirements for the documentary evidence that must be presented by applicants requesting the plates;
- (3) Guidelines for the designs, markings, and inscriptions on the plates;
- (4) Procedures for altering original designs;

¹ R.C. 4503.29(A).

² R.C. 4503.29(B).



(5) A prohibition against nonstandard plates that recognize achievement awards or unit awards; and

(6) Any other procedures and requirements necessary to implement and administer the program.³

After the rules are adopted, the act directs the Registrar and the Director to establish, in accordance with the rules, the "Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal," the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates.⁴

Military nonstandard license plates in statute

The act repeals most of the military nonstandard license plates codified in the Revised Code; however, the rules establishing the program must provide for the reestablishment of all the repealed license plates.⁵ Additionally, the Registrar must continue to issue the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.⁶ The license plates repealed from codified law, but retained by the act, are listed in the following table:

Military nonstandard license plates repealed under the act
Silver Star Medal (<i>R.C. 4503.431</i>)
Bronze Star Medal (<i>R.C. 4503.432</i>)
Battle Star Display (<i>R.C. 4503.433</i>)
Distinguished Flying Cross Medal Recipient (<i>R.C. 4503.434</i>)
Ohio National Guard Ohio Cross Medal Recipient (<i>R.C. 4503.436</i>)
Ohio National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves (<i>R.C. 4503.48</i>)
Ohio Retired National Guard Veteran (<i>R.C. 4503.481</i>)
Veterans from Combat Zones (<i>R.C. 4503.53</i>)
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (and related medals) (<i>R.C. 4503.532</i>)
Combat Action Medal/Ribbon/Badge (<i>R.C. 4503.533</i>)
Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal Recipient (<i>R.C. 4503.536</i>)
Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran (<i>R.C. 4503.537</i>)
Combat Medical Badge Recipient (<i>R.C. 4503.538</i>)
Retired or Honorably Discharged Veterans (<i>R.C. 4503.54</i>)
National Defense Service Medal (<i>R.C. 4503.541</i>)

³ R.C. 4503.29(B)(1) to (8).

⁴ Section 4.

⁵ R.C. 4503.29(C).

⁶ Section 3.



Military nonstandard license plates repealed under the act

Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal (*R.C. 4503.543*)
Veterans Motorcycle (*R.C. 4503.544*)
U.S. Paratrooper (*R.C. 4503.547*)
Combat Infantryman Badge (*R.C. 4503.548*)
Women Veterans (*R.C. 4503.581*)
Pearl Harbor (*R.C. 4503.59*)
Civil Air Patrol (*R.C. 4503.731*)

Certain military nonstandard license plates are not repealed because either there is a special exemption from registration fees associated with them or there is a contribution collected for their issuance. The "Congressional Medal of Honor," the "Prisoner of War," and the "Purple Heart" license plates are associated with an exemption from registration fees.⁷ The "Thank You U.S. Military," the "Disabled American Veteran," the "POW/MIA Awareness," the "Gold Star Family," the "Military Sacrifice," the "Marine Corps League," and the "Support Our Troops" license plates all require a contribution for issuance of the plates.⁸

Issuance of military nonstandard license plates

The procedures for application and issuance of the military nonstandard license plates through the program remain similar to the procedures for other nonstandard license plates. Any person who meets the criteria established by the rules may apply to the Registrar for one of the program's plates at the time of registration. The license plates may be issued for a passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle owned or leased that is part of a class approved by the Registrar. On receipt of the application, any required taxes and fees, and any required documentary evidence, and on compliance with all relevant laws related to registration of motor vehicles, the Registrar must issue the appropriate registration and license plates.⁹ There are no additional contributions or administrative fees required for the license plates created by or issued through the program. Additionally, they are not subject to the termination and reinstatement procedures for other nonstandard license plates.¹⁰

⁷ R.C. 4503.43, 4503.46, and 4503.571.

⁸ R.C. 4503.531, 4503.534, 4503.535, 4503.546, 4503.549, 4503.58, and 4503.92.

⁹ R.C. 4503.29(D).

¹⁰ R.C. 4503.29(E).



Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus

Board of Directors

The act potentially increases the Board of Director membership for the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. Under the act, the Board must consist of a *minimum* of 15 members, rather than a total of 15 members, as under prior law. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners will continue to appoint five members while the Articles of Incorporation must provide for the remaining appointments. The act also eliminates the prior requirement that a majority of the appointees be veterans of the armed forces of the United States.¹¹

National Veterans Advisory Committee

The act requires that the bylaws of the nonprofit corporation provide for a National Veterans Advisory Committee, and provide for the manner of appointing the Committee. The Committee must consist of veterans and family members of veterans.¹²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-01-17
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	05-24-17
Passed House (94-0)	10-24-17
Reported, S. Local Gov't, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs	02-28-18
Passed Senate (32-0)	02-28-18
House concurred in Senate amendments (95-1)	03-07-18

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¹¹ R.C. 307.6910(C).

¹² R.C. 307.6910(D).

