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SUMMARY

- Designates multiple highways, an interchange, bridge, and overpass.
- Creates multiple new specialty license plates.

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DETAILED ANALYSIS

New highway and other designations

The act designates the following highways, interchange, bridge, and overpass. It authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highways, interchange, bridge, and the overpass indicating their names.

Memorial designations

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
"Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway"[1]	U.S. Route 22 between mile marker 19 and mile marker 22, in Harrison County	Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. served in the U.S. Army. He earned various awards, which included a Bronze Star, for his service during WWII. He also

[1] R.C. 5534.102.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
		served as a guard at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He died on July 15, 2009.
"Patrolman Charles G. Cannon Memorial Highway"[2]	U.S. Route 42 between Tarbox Cemetery Road and James Barber Road, in Greene County	Patrolman Charles G. Cannon served in the Ohio State Highway Patrol for four years. He was killed on January 1, 1938, while patrolling on his motorcycle when he collided with a dog that suddenly ran into the roadway.
"PFC Chris Dixon Memorial Highway"[3]	I-270 between mile marker 48 and mile marker 52, in Franklin County	PFC Chris Dixon was serving with the U.S. Marines when he was killed in action on May 11, 2005, when his amphibious assault vehicle struck an explosive device while conducting combat operations in Karabilah, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
"Chief of Police James G. Jackson Memorial Highway"[4]	I-71 between I-670 and East Hudson Street, in the city of Columbus	Chief of Police James G. Jackson was a native of Columbus, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, the first black Columbus police chief, and the longest serving police chief in the history of the Columbus Division of Police. He joined the Division on March 16, 1958, and served in it for 51 years, 19 of them as Chief of Police. He passed away on January 2, 2025.
"Marshal Teddy Ray Holcomb Memorial Highway"[5]	State Route (S.R.) 13 between S.R. 78 and S.R. 329, in Athens County	Marshal Teddy Ray Holcomb was a U.S. Army and Ohio National Guard veteran. He served with the Trimble Village Police Department and previously

[2] R.C. 5534.141.

[3] R.C. 5534.155.

[4] R.C. 5534.428.

[5] R.C. 5534.429.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
		served with the Nelsonville Police Department. He died on October 27, 1976, when he was struck by an intoxicated driver fleeing arrest.
"Detective Rex Emrick Memorial Highway"[6]	S.R. 56 between S.R. 316 and the Madison County line, in Pickaway County	Detective Emrick began his law enforcement career with the Mount Sterling Police Department in April 1974. Beginning in 1976, and until his passing on January 26, 2021, he served at the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff and a detective.
"Deputy Sheriff Daniel Kin Memorial Highway"[7]	S.R. 53 between Township Road (T.R.) 11 to County Road (C.R.) 5, in Wyandot County	During his career in law enforcement, Deputy Sheriff Daniel Kin served at the Carey Police Department, the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, and the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office. While serving as a Deputy Sheriff in Wyandot County, Deputy Sherriff Kin's vehicle was struck by a pickup truck while he was transporting a prisoner. He died on December 15, 2022, from his injuries.
"Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Vance M. Andrews Memorial Highway"[8]	S.R. 13 between Columbus Road and Beckley Road, in Knox County	Lieutenant Andrews served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for 12 years. On November 21, 1945, he died in an automobile crash on State Route 13.

[6] R.C. 5534.443.

[7] R.C. 5534.444.

[8] R.C. 5534.451.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
"Officer Jacob J. Derbin Memorial Highway"[9]	I-480 between the point that route crosses under Lancaster Drive and I-77, in Cuyahoga County	Officer Jacob J. Derbin served with the Euclid Police Department. He was killed in the line of duty on May 11, 2024, when he was ambushed and fatally shot by a suspect while responding to an emergency call.
"Patrolman Robert E. Karsmizki Memorial Highway"[10]	S.R. 19 between Linden Drive and Beck Road, in Crawford County	Patrolman Robert E. Karsmizki was killed in the line of duty on March 31, 1957, after pursuing a murder suspect in a high-speed chase that ended in a crash. As Patrolman Karsmizki approached the apparently unconscious suspect, the suspect shot him in the chest and he died shortly thereafter.
"Patrolman Karl E. Bushong Memorial Highway"[11]	U.S. Route 20 between Hubbard Road and County Line Road, in Lake County	Patrolman Karl E. Bushong was killed in the line of duty on June 7, 1937, when a driver's license applicant crashed head-on into an oncoming vehicle while he was administering the driver's license test. In addition to serving more than three years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, he also served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWI.
"Patrolman Earl W. Casterline Memorial Highway"[12]	East Kemper Road between Tri County Parkway and Lebanon Road, in Hamilton County	Patrolman Casterline served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He was killed on October 19, 1943, when his patrol car was struck by a train at a

[9] R.C. 5534.454.

[10] R.C. 5534.455.

[11] R.C. 5534.456.

[12] R.C. 5534.482.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
		railroad crossing on Kemper Road in Hamilton County.
"Congressman David Hobson Memorial Highway"[13]	Both of the following highways: 1. U.S. Route 33 between Columbus-Lancaster Road NW and Logan-Lancaster Road, in Fairfield County; and 2. I-70 between S.R. 41 and U.S. Route 68, in Clark County	Congressman David Hobson served as a U.S. Representative for the 7th Congressional District in Ohio (which at the time was in southwest Ohio near Springfield) from 1991 to 2009. He also served in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958 to 1963, and in the Ohio Senate as a state senator from 1982 to 1990, including as Senate President from 1988 to 1990. Congressman Hobson passed away on October 6, 2024.
"Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway"[14]	S.R. 2 between mile marker 117 and mile marker 122, in Ottawa County	Corporal Robert Dockstader passed away on January 27, 2023. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and completed two separate tours of duty, including a tour in Iraq in 2005 during the Iraq War.
"Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway"[15]	S.R. 241 between Nichols Road and International Parkway, in Summit County	Captain Joshua Michael McClimans was serving as a U.S. Army nurse in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom when he was killed in action by indirect fire on April 22, 2011.
"SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway"[16]	I-280 between Navarre Avenue and Front Street, in Lucas County	SSG Jack W. Coy served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He was killed in action on February 24, 1944, when his

[13] R.C. 5534.59.

[14] R.C. 5534.607.

[15] R.C. 5534.609.

[16] R.C. 5534.617.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
		plane was shot down over Germany.
"Sgt. Andrew Lansing Memorial Bridge"[17]	The bridge spanning the Scioto River that is part of S.R. 207, in Ross County	Sgt. Andrew Lansing was a U.S. Army veteran who went on to serve more than 24 years with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. On December 25, 2024, while working as a corrections officer at the Ross Correctional Institution, he was assaulted by an inmate. Sgt. Andrew Lansing later died from his injuries.
"U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Thomas Evan Douglas Memorial Overpass"[18]	The overpass spanning S.R. 11 that is part of S.R. 305, in Trumbull County	Staff Sergeant Thomas Evan Douglas served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. On November 22, 1965, he and his crew disappeared after encountering heavy enemy fire and hazardous weather conditions during a helicopter flight. After his disappearance, he was posthumously promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.
"Navy Seaman Jadwisiak Memorial Highway"[19]	S.R. 163 between Lightner Road and Hartshorn Road, in Ottawa County	Seaman Stanley J. Jadwisiak served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He died when his ship, the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Wasp, was torpedoed by an Imperial Japanese Navy submarine and sank near the island of Guadalcanal in 1942.

[17] R.C. 5534.619.

[18] R.C. 5534.621.

[19] R.C. 5534.645.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
"Marine PFC Glenn S. Wingenbach, Jr. Memorial Highway"[20]	S.R. 13 (southbound lane only) between East Cook Road and West Hanley Road, in Richland County	Marine PFC Glenn S. Wingenbach, Jr. served in the Vietnam War. On March 6, 1969, he was killed in action by communist forces in South Vietnam.
"PFC Wetzel Eldridge USMC Memorial Highway"[21]	S.R. 41 between Ramsey Road and Dialton Road, in Clark County	PFC Wetzel Eldridge served as a U.S. Marine during the Vietnam War. On May 28, 1968, he was killed in action by communist forces in South Vietnam.
"PFC Thomas 'Tommy' Pizzino Memorial Highway"[22]	U.S. Route 22 between the eastern border of Harrison County and S.R. 151, in Harrison County	PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino enlisted in the U.S. Army in January of 1965. In November of that year, he was deployed to South Vietnam. PFC Pizzino was killed in action by communist forces in the battle of Ia Drang on November 17, 1965. As a result of his bravery in combat, he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor.
"PFC James Vincent Pottkotter Memorial Highway"[23]	S.R. 49 between Rossburg-Lightsville Road and McFeeley-Petry Road, in Darke County	PFC James Vincent Pottkotter served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On November 1, 1965, he was killed in action while battling communist forces in South Vietnam.
"PFC Francis Guillozet Memorial Highway"[24]	S.R. 47 between Simon Road and S.R. 66, in Shelby County	PFC Francis Guillozet served in the U.S. Army during WWII. On March 14, 1945, he was killed in action in Germany. Among other

[20] R.C. 5534.654.

[21] R.C. 5534.657.

[22] R.C. 5534.668.

[23] R.C. 5534.855.

[24] R.C. 5534.857.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
		commendations, PFC Guillozet was a recipient of the Purple Heart.
"Clarence 'Sonny' Smith, Jr. Memorial Highway"[25]	S.R. 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. He was also active in many other companies and philanthropic causes and donated much of the family's rock and gemstone collection to the Youngstown State University Geology Department to form the Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum in the atrium of Moser Hall. He died on April 13, 2021.
"John E. Gallagher Way"[26]	S.R. 10 between West 47th Street and West 50th Street, in the city of Cleveland	John E. Gallagher was a WWII U.S. Army veteran and the founder and chairman of Arrow, International, Inc., a manufacturer of charitable and social gaming solutions. He died on August 4, 2021.
"Tuscarawas Valley Memorial Highway"[27]	I-70 through the entirety of Etna Township, in Licking County	Memorializes the three band students and three chaperones who were killed in a fatal motor vehicle accident on November 14, 2023, as they travelled from Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools to perform at a school-related conference.

[25] R.C. 5534.921.

[26] R.C. 5534.922.

[27] R.C. 5534.926.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
"MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway"[28]	Chillicothe Lancaster Road between Amanda Clearport Road SW and U.S. Route 22, in Fairfield County	MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger was a WWII and Korean and Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Army for 21 years. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on February 13, 1951. He was also awarded a Bronze Star. He died on July 16, 2005.
"CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway"[29]	I-70 between Brice Road and S.R. 256, in Franklin County and Fairfield County	CPL Lindsey William Mitchell served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. On October 29, 1951, he was killed in action fighting communist forces. In addition to many other commendations, he was awarded the Purple Heart.
"Patrolman Ernest E. Cole Memorial Highway"[30]	All of I-75, in Butler County	Patrolman Ernest E. Cole served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. On October 3, 1964, he was killed in the line of duty when he was struck and killed by a vehicle while directing traffic at the scene of a multiple-car pileup.
"SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange"[31]	The interchange where I-480 meets West 150th Street, in the city of Cleveland	SPC Louis P. Shuster was a U.S. Army veteran who was working as a conductor for Norfolk Southern Railway when he was struck and killed on March 6, 2023, as the result of a dump truck colliding with a train car at a steel mill in Cleveland.

[28] R.C. 5534.927.

[29] R.C. 5534.931.

[30] R.C. 5534.932.

[31] R.C. 5534.966.

Designated name	Location	Biographical information
"Auxiliary Patrolman Earl Ulmer Memorial Highway"[32]	I-77 between Cambridge Road and the southernmost intersection of that route and Highland Ridge Road, in Washington County	Auxiliary Patrolman Ulmer served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. On July 12, 1953, he was killed in the line of duty when he was struck and killed by a vehicle while assisting at the scene of a car crash.
"Deputy Larry Henderson, Jr. Memorial Highway"[33]	I-275 between mile marker 68.5 and mile marker 69.5, in Hamilton County	Deputy Larry Henderson, Jr. was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for 33 years. On May 2, 2025, Deputy Henderson was killed in the line of duty by an offender who used his vehicle to intentionally run over Deputy Henderson.
"83rd Ohio Division Memorial Highway"[34]	S.R. 5 between S.R. 59 and I-80, in Portage County and Trumbull County	The 83rd Ohio Division, also known as the "Thunderbolt" Division, was a U.S. Army infantry division that was created in 1917. The Division served in WWI and WWII, notably participating in the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge during WWII.
"Dale McCauley Memorial Intersection"[35]	The intersection of U.S. Route 250 and McCauley Drive, in the city of Uhrichsville	Dale McCauley served as a Private First Class with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. On April 14, 1967, he was killed in action by communist forces in South Vietnam.

[32] R.C. 5534.968.

[33] R.C. 5534.971.

[34] R.C. 5534.973.

[35] R.C. 5534.975.

New specialty license plates

The act creates multiple new specialty license plates. Specialty license plates typically 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 License Plate Contribution Fund for later disbursement 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 administrative Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The BMV fee is deposited into the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund.[36] 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 act are described in the following table.

Specialty license plates

Name of specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution[37]
"1905 Wright Flyer III" license plate[38]	Ohio History Connection	$25	Contributions are deposited into the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Donation Fund. The fund is used to operate the War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Program, which provides grants for higher education purposes to children of deceased or disabled U.S. armed services veterans.[39]
"Lifetown" license plate[40]	Lifetown, Inc.	$15	To fund its programs and activities.

[36] R.C. 4501.06, not in the act.

[37] R.C. 4501.21.

[38] R.C. 4503.4913 and 5910.07.

[39] R.C. 5910.03 and 5910.04, not in the act.

[40] R.C. 4503.537.

Name of specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution[37]
"Toledo Mud Hens" license plate[41]	Toledo Mud Hens	$10	For the Helping Hens Program.
"Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plate[42]	A.O.H. Ohio State Board	$10	For historical preservation and promotion of Irish culture in accordance with the mission of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.
"Blue Knights L.E.M.C." license plate[43]	Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club	$10	To further the organization's mission.
"Save22" license plate[44]	Save22	$22	For suicide prevention and mental health services.
"Play Golf Ohio" license plate[45]	The Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation and Southern Ohio PGA Golf Foundation	$25	To support and promote golf throughout Ohio.
"Chillicothe Paints" license plate[46]	Paints Sports and Entertainment, LLC., for the support of Chillicothe Paints	$10	To support nonprofit organizations and schools in southern Ohio.
"COSI" license plate[47]	The Franklin County Historical Society for the support of the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), located in Columbus	$25	To support COSI and COSI's programs, which inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

[41] R.C. 4503.599.

[42] R.C. 4503.705.

[43] R.C. 4503.717.

[44] R.C. 4503.727.

[45] R.C. 4503.736.

[46] R.C. 4503.739.

[47] R.C. 4503.742.

Name of specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution[37]
"Dayton Dragons" license plate[48]	Dayton Dragons	$25	For the Dayton Dragons Foundation program.
"Ironton Fighting Tigers" license plate[49]	Ironton City School District	$30	Generally, 35% to provide a one-time scholarship to the graduating senior from Ironton High School with the highest grade point average; 35% to provide a one-time scholarship to the graduating senior from Ironton High School with the second highest grade point average; and 30% to the Ironton City Schools athletic department, which must use the contributions for nonsalary purposes.
"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." license plate[50]	King Arts Complex	Amount determined by the applicant	To further the organization's mission.
"Pediatric Cancer Awareness" license plate[51]	The Littlest Heros, Inc.	$10	To provide financial support for families battling pediatric cancer and other childhood illness.
"American Motorcyclist Association" license plate[52]	American Motorcyclist Association	$15	To promote the motorcycle lifestyle and to protect the future of motorcycling.

[48] R.C. 4503.861.

[49] R.C. 4503.889.

[50] R.C. 4503.897.

[51] R.C. 4503.898.

[52] R.C. 4503.912.

Name of specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution[37]
"DoItForJack" license plate[53]	Jack Quehl Foundation	$20	To support the activities of the Foundation.
"Paul Laurence Dunbar High School" license plate[54]	Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Alumni Association	$25	For college preparation courses and tutoring services.
"Beaver Creek Wetlands" license plate[55]	Beaver Creek Wetlands Association	$25	To preserve and restore areas in the Beaver Creek wetland and watershed habitat through conservation, stewardship, and education.
"Land of U.S. Grant" license plate[56]	Land of U.S. Grant	$20	To further the organization's mission.

Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate

The act creates another specialty license plate, in addition to those listed above: the "Law Enforcement Purple Heart" license plate.[57] Unlike the plates described above, this plate is available to a person who has been awarded the Law Enforcement Purple Heart from the National Association of Chiefs of Police only. Like the military "Purple Heart" license plate, the act exempts an applicant for this new plate from all registration taxes and fees and allows the applicant to also have the International Symbol of Access displayed on the plate.[58] Along with the application, the applicant must submit any documentary evidence required by the Registrar to demonstrate receipt of the award and, if applicable, any evidence demonstrating that the applicant has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk.

[53] R.C. 4503.937.

[54] R.C. 4503.938.

[55] R.C. 4503.939.

[56] R.C. 4503.947.

[57] R.C. 4503.472.

[58] 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), the transfer fee (R.C. 4503.12), local motor vehicle taxes (R.C. Chapter 4504), the license plate fee (R.C. 4503.19), and any deputy registrar fee (R.C. 4503.038), none of which are amended by the act.

The act prohibits a person from willfully and falsely representing that he or she received the Law Enforcement Purple Heart to obtain the specialty license plate. Additionally, it prohibits any person from knowingly owning a motor vehicle with the plate unless the person is eligible for it. Finally, the plate must be replaced if the motor vehicle ownership is transferred after the death of the license plate recipient. A violation of any of the act's prohibitions relating to the Law Enforcement Purple Heart license plate is a fourth degree misdemeanor.[59]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-28-25
Reported, S. Transportation	06-11-25
Passed Senate (32-0)	06-18-25
Reported, H. Transportation	06-09-26
Passed House (96-0)	06-09-26
Senate concurred in House amendments (33-0)	06-10-26

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[59] R.C. 4503.472.