



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 159

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. T. Johnson and Patmon, Sweeney, Henne, Becker, Brenner, Hood, Roegner, DeVitis, Maag, Dever, Slesnick, Perales, Ginter, Brinkman, Blessing

BILL SUMMARY

- Replaces the requirement that most motor vehicles display two license plates, one on the front of the vehicle and one on the rear, with a requirement that such motor vehicles display one plate on the rear.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Display of a single license plate

The bill replaces the current requirement that most motor vehicles, including passenger vehicles, display two license plates, one on the front of the vehicle and one on the rear, with a requirement that a single license plate be displayed on the rear of each such vehicle.¹ In years that license plates are not issued, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles must continue to issue a validation sticker, as required by current law, to be displayed on the single license plate.² Further, the bill removes references to the set of county identification stickers that currently are issued for motor vehicles such as passenger cars and replaces them with references to one sticker.³

The bill provides that the display of a single current license plate and validation sticker on the rear of a motor vehicle sufficiently indicates that a vehicle is registered within Ohio. Any reference in Ohio law to license plates, a set of license plates,

¹ R.C. 4503.21.

² R.C. 4503.191, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 4503.19.

registration plates, or validation stickers is deemed to be a reference to the single license plate and validation sticker.⁴

The bill specifies that a commercial tractor, whether or not it is registered under the International Registration Plan, must display its license plate and validation sticker on the front of the vehicle.⁵ The bill also permits historical motor vehicles to display one model year license plate or two model year license plates, one on the front of the vehicle and one on the rear.⁶ The bill makes additional conforming changes to the law for purposes of the new single license plate requirement.

The bill does not affect any of the following in any substantive way:

(1) Motor vehicles owned by a motor vehicle manufacturer or dealer, and motorcycles, motorized bicycles, trailers, manufactured homes, mobile homes, trailers, and semitrailers, all of which are issued only one license plate, which must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle.⁷

(2) School buses, which are not issued license plates but must display identifying numbers issued by the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol.⁸

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-21-15

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⁴ R.C. 4503.193.

⁵ R.C. 4503.19.

⁶ R.C. 4503.181.

⁷ R.C. 4503.21(A).

⁸ R.C. 4503.17, not in the bill.

