



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

H.B. 194

132nd General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Transportation and Public Safety)

Reps. Johnson and Craig, Anielski, Arndt, Bocchieri, 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

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Veterans Services and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to develop and maintain a program to establish and 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 current military nonstandard license plates, but requires all of those license plates to be reestablished under the program.
- Requires the Registrar to continue issuing the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Military nonstandard license plate program

The bill requires the Director of Veterans Services to work in conjunction with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to develop and maintain 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 designed to replace the current

¹ R.C. 4503.29(A).

procedure in which the General Assembly must create the various military nonstandard license plates through legislation. Examples of military nonstandard license plates established through legislation include the Ohio National Guard license plate, the Combat Medical Badge Recipient license plate, and the Purple Heart license plate.²

Rules for the program

The bill requires the Director and Registrar to jointly adopt rules in order to establish the program. The rules must be adopted as soon as possible, but not later than nine months after the bill's effective date.³ In addition to establishing nonstandard license plates recognizing military service and military honors, the rules must also establish all of the following:

- (1) Eligibility criteria for the creation of new nonstandard license plates;
- (2) Requirements for the documentary evidence that must be presented by applicants when requesting the license plates;
- (3) Guidelines for the designs, markings, and inscriptions on the license plates;
- (4) Procedures for altering original designs;
- (5) A prohibition against nonstandard license plates that recognize achievement awards or unit awards; and
- (6) Any other procedures and requirements necessary for the implementation and administration of the program.⁴

Current military nonstandard license plates

The bill repeals most of the current military nonstandard license plates in statute; however, the rules establishing the program are required to provide for the reestablishment of all the repealed license plates.⁵ Additionally, the Registrar is required to continue to issue the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.⁶ The license plates repealed in statute, but retained by the bill, are the

² R.C. 4503.48, 4503.538, and 4503.571.

³ R.C. 4503.29(B).

⁴ R.C. 4503.29(B)(1) to (8).

⁵ R.C. 4503.29(C).

⁶ Section 3.



Silver Star Medal,⁷ the Bronze Star Medal,⁸ the Battle Star Display,⁹ the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal Recipient,¹⁰ the Ohio National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves,¹¹ the Ohio Retired National Guard Veteran,¹² the Veterans from Combat Zones,¹³ the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (and related medals),¹⁴ the Combat Action Medal/Ribbon/Badge,¹⁵ the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal Recipient,¹⁶ the Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran,¹⁷ the Combat Medical Badge Recipient,¹⁸ the Retired or Honorably Discharged Veterans,¹⁹ the National Defense Service Medal,²⁰ the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal,²¹ the Veterans Motorcycle,²² the U.S. Paratrooper,²³ the Combat Infantryman Badge,²⁴ the Purple Heart,²⁵ the Women Veterans,²⁶ the Pearl Harbor,²⁷ and the Civil Air Patrol²⁸ license plates.

⁷ R.C. 4503.431.

⁸ R.C. 4503.432.

⁹ R.C. 4503.433.

¹⁰ R.C. 4503.434.

¹¹ R.C. 4503.48.

¹² R.C. 4503.481.

¹³ R.C. 4503.53.

¹⁴ R.C. 4503.532.

¹⁵ R.C. 4503.533.

¹⁶ R.C. 4503.536.

¹⁷ R.C. 4503.537.

¹⁸ R.C. 4503.538.

¹⁹ R.C. 4503.54.

²⁰ R.C. 4503.541.

²¹ R.C. 4503.543.

²² R.C. 4503.544.

²³ R.C. 4503.547.

²⁴ R.C. 4503.548.

²⁵ R.C. 4503.571.

²⁶ R.C. 4503.581.



Certain military nonstandard license plates are not repealed by the bill because either there is a special exemption from registration fees associated with the license plate or there is a contribution collected for issuance of the license plate. The Congressional Medal of Honor and the Prisoner of War license plates are both associated with an exemption from registration fees.²⁹ 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 license plates and are not repealed by the bill.³⁰

Issuance of military nonstandard license plates

The application for and issuance of the military nonstandard license plates through the program remain similar to the procedures in current law. Any person who meets the criteria established by the rules for the program may apply to the Registrar for the issuance of one of the program's license 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 the registration of motor vehicles, the Registrar must issue the appropriate registration and license plates to the applicant.³¹

The license plates created and issued through the program are not subject to the termination and reinstatement procedures for other nonstandard license plates.³²

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|---|-------------|
| Introduced | 05-01-17 |
| Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety | 05-24-17 |

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²⁷ R.C. 4503.59.

²⁸ R.C. 4503.731.

²⁹ R.C. 4503.43 and 4503.46.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.531, 4503.534, 4503.535, 4503.546, 4503.549, 4503.58, and 4503.92.

³¹ R.C. 4503.29(D).

³² R.C. 4503.29(E).

