



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

Sub. H.B. 194*

132nd General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Local Gov't, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs)

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, 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

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- Requires the Registrar to continue issuing the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.
- Requires the Registrar to create the "Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal," the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

** Incorporates the amendment pertaining to the Veterans Memorial and Museum and National Veterans Advisory Committee.

"Coast Guard Cross" license plates in accordance with the rules adopted under the bill.

- 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 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 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;

¹ R.C. 4503.29(A).

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

³ R.C. 4503.29(B).



(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

Under the bill, after the rules are adopted, the Director and the Registrar must establish, in accordance with those 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.⁵

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.⁶ Additionally, the Registrar is required to continue to issue the repealed license plates until the rules establishing the program are adopted.⁷ The license plates repealed in statute, but retained by the bill, are the Silver Star Medal,⁸ the Bronze Star Medal,⁹ the Battle Star Display,¹⁰ the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal Recipient,¹¹ the Ohio National Guard Ohio Cross Medal Recipient,¹² the Ohio National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves,¹³ the Ohio Retired National Guard Veteran,¹⁴ the Veterans from Combat Zones,¹⁵ the Global War on Terrorism

⁴ R.C. 4503.29(B)(1) to (8).

⁵ Section 4.

⁶ R.C. 4503.29(C).

⁷ Section 3.

⁸ R.C. 4503.431.

⁹ R.C. 4503.432.

¹⁰ R.C. 4503.433.

¹¹ R.C. 4503.434.

¹² R.C. 4503.436.

¹³ R.C. 4503.48.

¹⁴ R.C. 4503.481.

¹⁵ R.C. 4503.53.



Expeditionary Medal (and related medals),¹⁶ the Combat Action Medal/Ribbon/Badge,¹⁷ the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal Recipient,¹⁸ the Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran,¹⁹ the Combat Medical Badge Recipient,²⁰ the Retired or Honorably Discharged Veterans,²¹ the National Defense Service Medal,²² the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal,²³ the Veterans Motorcycle,²⁴ the U.S. Paratrooper,²⁵ the Combat Infantryman Badge,²⁶ the Women Veterans,²⁷ the Pearl Harbor,²⁸ and the Civil Air Patrol²⁹ license plates.

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, the Prisoner of War, and the Purple Heart license plates are associated with an exemption from registration fees.³⁰ 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.³¹

¹⁶ R.C. 4503.532.

¹⁷ R.C. 4503.533.

¹⁸ R.C. 4503.536.

¹⁹ R.C. 4503.537.

²⁰ R.C. 4503.538.

²¹ R.C. 4503.54.

²² R.C. 4503.541.

²³ R.C. 4503.543.

²⁴ R.C. 4503.544.

²⁵ R.C. 4503.547.

²⁶ R.C. 4503.548.

²⁷ R.C. 4503.581.

²⁸ R.C. 4503.59.

²⁹ R.C. 4503.731.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.43, 4503.46, and 4503.571.

³¹ R.C. 4503.531, 4503.534, 4503.535, 4503.546, 4503.549, 4503.58, and 4503.92.



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.³²

The license plates created and issued through the program are not subject to the termination and reinstatement procedures for other nonstandard license plates.³³

Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus

Board of Directors

The bill potentially increases Board of Director membership for the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. Under the bill, the Board must consist of a minimum of 15 members. Under continuing law, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners appoints five members. Under the bill, the Articles of Incorporation are to provide for the remaining appointments. The bill eliminates a current law limitation that the total number of appointments be 15, with ten or fewer being appointed as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation. The bill also eliminates the requirement that a majority of the appointees be veterans of the armed forces of the United States.³⁴

National Veterans Advisory Committee

The bill requires that the bylaws of the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum provide for a National Veterans Advisory Committee, and provide for the manner of appointment to the Committee. The Committee must consist of veterans and family members of veterans.³⁵

³² R.C. 4503.29(D).

³³ R.C. 4503.29(E).

³⁴ R.C. 307.6910(C).

³⁵ R.C. 307.6910(D).



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	---

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