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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 163
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 163's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Kunze

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Maggie West, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill creates twenty-three (23) new nonstandard license plates, twenty-two (22) of which are subject to current law's minimum registration requirements of 150 applicants for the first year and 25 applicants annually thereafter.
- For each of the new nonstandard license plates where demand reaches the minimum threshold of 150 plates, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will: (1) collect at least \$1,500 in fee revenues and (2) incur at least \$615 in license plate production costs. The designated recipient organization will receive, depending upon the amount of the required contribution, a minimum of between \$1,500 and \$4,500.
- Beginning in the second year, for each of the new nonstandard license plates that stays in circulation, the BMV will collect at least \$250 in fee revenues and incur \$4.10 in costs for each new set of plates issued. The designated recipient organization will receive, depending upon the amount of the required contribution, a minimum of between \$250 and \$750.
- For each "Ohio Sons of the American Legion" license plate issued, which is exempt from implementation and termination requirements, the BMV will collect a \$10 administrative fee and incur \$4.10 in license plate production costs; the Ohio Sons of the American Legion will receive a \$10 contribution.
- The actual annual BMV fee revenue and cost, and related annual contributions paid to designated organizational recipients, depend upon demand for each of the bill's nonstandard license plates each year.
- A person who applies for one of the bill's twenty-three (23) new nonstandard license plates generally must pay: (1) a \$10 BMV administrative fee, and (2) a contribution ranging from \$10 to \$30.

- The bill generally will have no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions, the exceptions being related to five of the bill's new nonstandard license plates for which the recipient of the required contribution is a designated public school.

Detailed Analysis

New nonstandard license plates

The bill creates 23 nonstandard license plates generally available to all persons with an eligible vehicle registered in Ohio.¹ A person applying for a plate must pay: (1) a \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) administrative fee, and (2) a contribution ranging from \$10 to \$30.² The table below summarizes each plate by name, including the contribution amount and recipient organization.

| Nonstandard License Plates | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Nonstandard License Plate | BMV Fee | Required Contribution | Contribution Recipient |
| ALS Awareness | \$10 | \$25 | ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter |
| Cleveland Clinic Children's | \$10 | \$25 | Cleveland Clinic Foundation |
| Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad | \$10 | \$15 | Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad |
| Elder High School | \$10 | \$30 | Elder High School |
| Fairfield Senior High School | \$10 | \$30 | Fairfield Senior High School |
| Fallen Timbers Battlefield | \$10 | \$20 | Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission |
| Folds of Honor | \$10 | \$25 | Folds of Honor of Central Ohio |
| Habitat for Humanity of Ohio | \$10 | \$20 | Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, Inc. |
| Hamilton High School | \$10 | \$30 | Hamilton High School |
| Harrison Central Huskies | \$10 | \$20 | Harrison Central Jr./Sr. High School |
| Healthy New Albany | \$10 | \$25 | Healthy New Albany |

¹ The "Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police" license plate is available only to a member or staff of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police or that person's spouse.

² The "Stop Elder Abuse" license plate does not require a contribution.

| Nonstandard License Plates | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---|
| Nonstandard License Plate | BMV Fee | Required Contribution | Contribution Recipient |
| John F. Kennedy Catholic School | \$10 | \$20 | John F. Kennedy Catholic School |
| La Salle High School | \$10 | \$30 | La Salle High School |
| Liberty Center Local Schools | \$10 | \$25 | Liberty Center Local School District |
| Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police | \$10 | \$10 | Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police |
| Ohio DeMolay | \$10 | \$15 | Ohio DeMolay |
| Ohio Sons of the American Legion | \$10 | \$10 | Ohio Sons of the American Legion |
| Ronald McDonald House Charities | \$10 | \$25 | Central Ohio Chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities |
| Ross High School | \$10 | \$30 | Ross High School |
| St. Charles Preparatory School | \$10 | \$30 | St. Charles Preparatory School |
| Stop Elder Abuse | \$10 | None | N/A |
| Summit Metro Parks | \$10 | \$10 | Summit Metro Parks Foundation |
| Zero | \$10 | \$25 | Zero, The End of Prostate Cancer, Incorporated |

License plate implementation and termination procedures

Under existing law, a nonstandard license plate generally is subject to a minimum registration requirement and to related termination and revival procedures. For example, the BMV Registrar is not required to implement any legislation that creates a new nonstandard license plate until the Registrar receives written statements from at least 150 persons indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain the special license plate (R.C. 4503.78). If, during any calendar year, the total number of new and renewal motor vehicle registrations involving the plate totals less than 25, the issuance of that license plate may cease as of December 31 of the following year (R.C. 4503.77).

Twenty-two (22) of the bill's twenty-three (23) new nonstandard license plates are subject to these procedures. The bill specifies that those procedures do not apply to the "Ohio Sons of the American Legion" license plate.

Production costs and administrative fees

The BMV currently produces nonstandard license plates via a digital print-on-demand process. The total cost to produce a pair of these plates is \$4.10.³ Under the bill, a person obtaining such a plate must pay an administrative fee of \$10, the purpose of which is to compensate the BMV for additional services required in issuing the plate. The administrative fees will be credited to the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5TM0), which is used in part to pay the BMV’s expenses related to titling motor vehicles, licensing drivers, and registering motor vehicles.

- For each license plate that satisfies the minimum 150-person registration requirement, then, in the first year, the annual production costs for each license plate will total \$615 (150 persons x \$4.10) and the administrative fees collected will total \$1,500 (150 persons x \$10).
- For each license plate in subsequent years that satisfies the minimum 25-person registration requirement (new and renewals), the administrative fees collected will total \$250 (25 persons x \$10). The annual production costs for each license plate will total \$4.10 for each new set issued.

Contributions

The required contribution paid for the issuance of twenty-two (22) of the bill’s twenty-three (23) new nonstandard license plates will be credited to the existing License Plate Contribution Fund (Fund 5V10) and then paid to the designated recipient organization. The amount paid annually to such an organization will depend on the number of persons obtaining the plate for which it is the designated recipient.

Changes to existing nonstandard license plates

“Freemason” license plate

The bill eliminates the requirement that a person be in good standing of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio in order to obtain the license plate, which in effect makes it available to all persons with an eligible vehicle registered in Ohio. The bill also establishes a \$15 contribution to be paid to the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio for scholarship purposes. Under current law, there is no required contribution. This provision has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions.

“Girl Scouts” license plate

The bill: (1) redirects the annual \$15 contribution from the existing “Girl Scouts” license plate from the Great River Council of the Girl Scouts to the Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland, and (2) requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and a representative from the Girl Scouts of Ohio’s

³ Effective July 1, 2020, H.B. 62 of the 133rd General Assembly replaces the two license plate requirement that is currently in effect for most motor vehicles, including passenger cars, with a single license plate requirement. As a result, special license plate production costs may decrease by some amount.

Heartland to contract for the national Girl Scout logo to continue to be displayed on the license plates. This provision has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions.

“Purple Heart” license plate

The bill permits a person, who is eligible for both a “Purple Heart” license plate and a license plate imprinted with the international symbol of access indicating that the person is disabled, to apply for a single plate that displays both symbols. This provision has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions.