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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 578
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 578's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Maggie West, Senior Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

Highlights

Department of Public Safety

- The bill creates 15 specialty license plates.
- For each specialty license plate that satisfies the minimum 150-person registration requirement, then, in its first year, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will: (1) gain at least \$1,500 in fee revenues and (2) incur between \$882 and \$1,085 or more in license plate production costs; the specified recipients will receive at least \$1,500 to \$4,500 in contributions, depending on the amount of the required contribution.
- In subsequent years, the BMV will gain \$10 in fee revenue for each license plate newly issued or renewed, and incur production costs of \$5.88 and \$7.23 for a new single plate and pair of plates issued, respectively.
- The actual BMV fee revenue and cost, as well as contributions to the specified recipients, will depend upon demand in each year.
- A person who applies for one of the bill's specialty license plates must pay additional money, consisting of a \$10 BMV administrative fee and a required contribution of \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, or \$30.
- The bill's specialty license plate provisions will have no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Department of Transportation

- The Ohio Department of Transportation would incur costs of approximately \$850 per set of signs to produce and install signs for most of the 46 designated memorial highways in the bill. In some cases, however, municipalities could incur costs for installing the signs.

Detailed Analysis

Department of Public Safety

Specialty license plates

The bill creates 15 specialty license plates that are available to all persons with an eligible vehicle registered in Ohio. A person applying for one of the plates must pay a \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) administrative fee and a contribution of \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, or \$30 depending on the designated recipient. The bill's specialty license plates, administrative fee requirement, and required contributions and respective recipients are listed in the table below.

Specialty License Plate	BMV Fee	Required Contribution	Contribution Recipient
"American Legion"	\$10	\$10	American Legion, Department of Ohio, Inc.
"Bishop Hartley High School"	\$10	\$30	Bishop Hartley High School
"Chardon High School State Champs"	\$10	\$20	Chardon Hilltopper Gridiron Club
"Creative Ohio"	\$10	\$25	Ohio Citizens of the Arts Foundation
"Ohio Bird Sanctuary"	\$10	\$15	Ohio Bird Sanctuary
"Ohio Conference of Teamsters"	\$10	\$20	Ohio Conference of Teamsters and Industry Health and Welfare Fund
"Ohio House Rabbit Rescue"	\$10	\$15	Ohio House Rabbit Rescue
"Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program"	\$10	\$20	Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Foundation
"Paul Laurence Dunbar"	\$10	\$10	Ohio History Connection
"P.A.W.S."	\$10	\$25	Progressive Animal Welfare Society Adoption Center, Inc.
"Playhouse Square"	\$10	\$15	Playhouse Square

Table 1. Specialty License Plates			
Specialty License Plate	BMV Fee	Required Contribution	Contribution Recipient
"Recovery is Beautiful"	\$10	\$20	Paid equally to National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI), Ohio Peer Recovery Organizations (Ohio PRO), and Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR)
"Revere Local Schools"	\$10	\$25	Revere Schools Foundation
"Shriners"	\$10	\$15	Antioch Shrine Foundation
"Stephen T. Badin High School"	\$10	\$30	Stephen T. Badin High School

License plate implementation procedures

Under existing law, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is not required to implement any legislation that creates a specialty license plate until the Registrar receives written statements from at least 150 persons indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain the license plate (R.C. 4503.78).

Production costs and administrative fees

Under current law, a person may elect to purchase either a single plate or pair of plates. The BMV currently produces specialty license plates via a digital print-on-demand process. The cost to produce a single plate is \$5.88. The production cost for a pair is \$7.23.

Under the bill, a person obtaining a specialty license plate is required to 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 fee is 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 a specialty license plate meeting the minimum 150-person registration requirement, then, in the first year, the annual production costs for the plate will total at a minimum between \$882 (150 persons x \$5.88) and \$1,085 (150 persons x \$7.23), and the administrative fees collected will total at least \$1,500 (150 persons x \$10).
- In subsequent years, the BMV will collect \$10 for each new or renewed license plate. For each new plate issued, the production cost will be \$5.88 and \$7.23 for a single plate and pair of plates, respectively.

License Plate Contribution Fund

The required contribution paid for the issuance of each of the bill's specialty license plates will be credited to the existing License Plate Contribution Fund (Fund 5V10) and then paid to the organization that is supported by each respective license plate for a specified purpose. The total amount contributed annually will vary based on the required contribution for each specialty license plate, as well as the number of individuals who choose to obtain that plate.

“Fallen Lineworker” license plate

The bill:

- Renames the “Fallen Linemen” license plate as the “Fallen Lineworker” license plate;
- Changes the organization designated to receive the \$10 contributions from the sale of the license plate from the Fallen Linemen Organization to the Community Foundation of Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives, including from past sales where the former organization did not accept the contributions;
- Adds that the contributions may be used by the Foundation to recognize and memorialize “injured” lineworkers and support their families (rather than solely to recognize and memorialize “fallen” linemen and support their families, as under current law).

There were 624 active “Fallen Linemen” license plates in calendar year 2021.

“Ohio Sons of the American Legion” license plate

The bill redirects the required \$10 contribution for the existing “Ohio Sons of the American Legion” license plate from the Ohio Sons of the American Legion to the Ohio Past Detachment Commanders Club, Inc., to support the activities of the organization. The “Sons of the American Legion” license plate was enacted in S.B. 163 of the 133rd General Assembly. In 2021, there were a total of 48 active “Sons of the American Legion” license plates.

“Ohio’s Horse” and “Pets” license plates

The bill makes “Ohio’s Horse” and “Pets” license plates, which are currently available to all eligible Ohio motorists, specifically available to motorcycle owners and lessees. As a result, there may be some increase in demand for each of these plates. If more people choose to obtain these plates, the amount of revenue generated for the specified contribution recipients may increase. The cost to issue a motorcycle license plate is not readily available but is presumably less than the \$5.88 it costs to produce a single standard license plate since motorcycle plates are smaller. Under the bill, as with other special license plates, a recipient of an “Ohio’s Horse” or “Pets” motorcycle plate is required to pay a \$10 BMV administrative fee to compensate the BMV for additional services performed in issuing the plate, which will offset production costs.

The administrative fee requirement, and required contributions and respective recipients for the “Ohio’s Horse” and “Pets” license plates are listed in the table below.

Specialty License Plate	BMV Fee	Required Contribution	Contribution Recipient
“Ohio’s Horse”	\$10	\$20	Ohio Coalition for Animals, Inc.
“Pets”	\$10	\$15	Ohio Pet Fund

Department of Transportation

The bill designates 46 new memorial highways on portions of various interstate highways, U.S. routes, and state routes throughout Ohio. Overall, the Ohio Department of Transportation

(ODOT) would incur costs of approximately \$850 per set of signs to produce and install signs for most of the designated memorial highways in the bill. Once a set of signs is installed, there are typically no maintenance costs unless the signs are damaged. Signs are usually in need of replacement every 12 to 15 years.

The cost of signage to mark the portion of a highway designated as a memorial is either paid entirely by ODOT or shared between ODOT and the municipal corporation through which the roadway passes. ODOT pays for all of the signage production costs. However, the installation costs may be borne by municipalities, depending on where the designated portion of highway begins and ends. ODOT pays installation costs for signs to be located outside of municipal boundaries, as well as the signs on all interstate routes. If a memorial highway begins or ends within a municipal corporation, then the city or village is responsible for installing the signage within their jurisdiction. In cases where only a portion of a designated memorial highway resides in a municipal corporation, ODOT and the city or village may share the installation costs. The table below summarizes these memorial designations in the order that they appear in the bill, including the location of the highway and the entity responsible for paying signage installation costs.

Table 3. Memorial Highway and Bridge Designations in H.B. 578			
Designation	Roadway	County	Entity or Entities Responsible for Installation Cost
PFC Melvin E. Newlin, Medal of Honor Recipient	State Route 7	Columbiana & Jefferson	City of East Liverpool & Village of Wellsville
First Lieutenant Gerald B. Greendyke Memorial Highway	State Route 49	Darke	ODOT
Lance Corporal Michael C. Spaulding	Interstate Route 76	Summit	ODOT
Army PFC Noah C. Porter Memorial Highway	State Route 665	Franklin	ODOT
Ohio State Highway Patrol MCEI Kimra Skelton	Interstate Route 75	Miami	ODOT
Firefighter Tommy Rees Memorial Highway	State Route 142	Madison	ODOT
Sheriff Gene Fischer Memorial Highway	U.S. Route 35	Greene	City of Xenia
Captain 'Smokey' Carl Edward Summers Memorial Highway	U.S. Route 83	Medina	ODOT
Sherriff Fredrick J. Abdalla Memorial Highway	State Route 7	Jefferson	Village of Stratton

Table 3. Memorial Highway and Bridge Designations in H.B. 578

Designation	Roadway	County	Entity or Entities Responsible for Installation Cost
Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore Memorial Highway	State Route 73	Warren	ODOT
Sheriff Sergeant William 'Bill' Morris Memorial Highway	State Route 55	Miami	ODOT
Officer Dominic Francis	Interstate Route 75	Allen & Hancock	ODOT
Police Chief Cel Rivera	State Route 57	Lorain	Municipal Corporation of Lorain
Officer David Fahey Jr. Cleveland Police 1 st District	Interstate Route 90	Cuyahoga	ODOT
Sheriff Matthew Yates	State Route 40	Clark	City of Springfield
Patrolman David L. Cole	Interstate Route 71	Hamilton	ODOT
Patrolman Paul L. McManis	State Route 269	Erie	ODOT
Patrolman Leroy S. Bedell	State Route 113	Erie & Huron	City of Bellevue
Captain Charles R. Miner Memorial Bridge	State Route 164 Bridge	Columbiana	Township of Fairfield
World War II Veterans Memorial Highway	State Route 84	Ashtabula	ODOT
Gunnery Sergeant James W. Speedy Memorial Interchange	Interchange of Interstate Route 77 & Interstate Route 70	Guernsey	ODOT
State Representative Andy Thompson Memorial Highway	State Route 821	Washington	Village of Devola
Roberty E. Turney	U.S. Route 36	Tuscarawas	ODOT
Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson Memorial Overpass	U.S. Route 250	Tuscarawas	City of Uhrichsville

Table 3. Memorial Highway and Bridge Designations in H.B. 578

Designation	Roadway	County	Entity or Entities Responsible for Installation Cost
“Cpl. Fred B. McGee Memorial Highway; Korean War Hero; Silver Star Recipient”	State Route 151	Jefferson	ODOT
Captain David “Hank” Spellacy Memorial Highway	State Route 315	Franklin	City of Columbus
Veterans Legacy Highway	State Route 44	Geauga	ODOT
PFC Jerry D. Leak Memorial Highway	State Route 123	Warren	Municipal Corporation of Lebanon
Murray Ebner, Holocaust Survivor and Korean War Veteran Memorial Highway	Interstate Route 270	Franklin	ODOT
LCpl. Timothy Michael Bell, Jr. Memorial Highway	U.S. Route 42	Butler	ODOT
Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge	State Route 304 Bridge	Trumbull	City of Hubbard
“U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton Sowiak Memorial Highway”	State Route 113	Erie	ODOT
SPC Christian M. Neff Memorial Highway	Interstate Route 75	Allen & Auglaize	ODOT
Putnam County Veterans Memorial Highway	U.S. Route 224	Putnam	ODOT
Corporal Dustin A. Derga Memorial Highway	Interstate Route 70	Fairfield	ODOT
SSG Garren Ray Goudy	State Route 7	Belmont	ODOT
Williams County Veterans Memorial Highway	State Route 107	Williams	Village of Montpelier
PFC Edward O’Dell Mullins	U.S. Route 22 Bridge	Warren	Village of Morrow

Table 3. Memorial Highway and Bridge Designations in H.B. 578

Designation	Roadway	County	Entity or Entities Responsible for Installation Cost
Sgt. Kevin J. Lannon Memorial Way	State Route 48	Montgomery	City of Kettering
Sgt. Cameron H. Thomas Memorial Way	State Route 48	Montgomery	City of Kettering
Byers Brothers	State Route 800	Belmont	ODOT
Teresa Miller-Martin 9/11 Memorial Highway	State Route 19	Sandusky	ODOT
Wayne County Gold Star Family	State Route 226	Wayne	Village of Shreve
Officer Wayne A. Leon Memorial Highway	Lorain Avenue	Cuyahoga	City of Cleveland
PFC Dale Marker Memorial Highway	State Route 571	Darke	ODOT
Jesse Owens Memorial Highway	State Route 315	Franklin	City of Columbus