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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 163  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Final Analysis

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**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Kunze

**Effective date:** April 9, 2025

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### SUMMARY

- Creates multiple new specialty license plates.
- Modifies three existing specialty license plates.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### New specialty license plates

The act creates multiple new specialty license plates. The plates are available to the general public, but require a person to pay an annual contribution when the plate is issued and renewed. The contributions are deposited into the License Plate Contribution Fund for later disbursement to the appropriate organizations that receive the contributions. Those organizations work with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to determine the appropriate logo and words that are displayed on the plates.

In addition to the contribution, the person receiving the specialty license plate must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The fee's purpose is to compensate the BMV for the additional services required to issue each specialty license plate. The BMV fee is deposited into the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund.<sup>1</sup> All other registration requirements apply to the new plates. The new plates may be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar.

The new specialty license plates created by the act are set forth in the following table.

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4501.06, not in the act.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution <sup>2</sup>
"Continue Your Story" license plate <sup>3</sup>	Ben Morrison Memorial Fund	\$10	For scholarships and other programs that support mental health.
"Iota Phi Theta" license plate <sup>4</sup>	Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.	\$15	For the development and perpetuation of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, fidelity, and brotherhood among men and youth in Ohio.
"Purdue University" license plate <sup>5</sup>	Purdue University	\$30	For awarding grants or scholarships to Ohio residents who attend the University. The University may not use any of the funds it receives for administrative costs.
"Save a Warrior" license plate <sup>6</sup>	Save a Warrior, Inc.	\$10	To prevent suicide by active members and veterans of the U.S. armed forces and first responders.
"Ohio Craft Brewers" license plate <sup>7</sup>	Ohio Craft Brewers Association	\$20	To the Ohio Craft Brewers Association.
"Blue Star Banner" license plate <sup>8</sup>	Ohio Department of Veterans Services	No contribution	

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4501.21.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4503.4912.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4503.512.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4503.520.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4503.536.

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4503.542.

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 4503.547.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution <sup>2</sup>
"Terrace Park" license plate <sup>9</sup>	Terrace Park Recreation Committee	\$20	To offer scholarships to young athletes of, and maintain athletic facilities in, the municipal corporation of Terrace Park.
"Ohio Mountain Bike Alliance" license plate <sup>10</sup>	Ohio Mountain Bike Alliance	\$25	To the Mountain Bike Alliance.
"NASA Glenn Research Center" license plate <sup>11</sup>	NASA Glenn Research Center	No contribution	
"Ohio State Grange" license plate <sup>12</sup>	Ohio Grange Patrons of Husbandry Foundation	\$25	To support the activities of the organization.
"Jackson Local Schools" license plate <sup>13</sup>	Jackson Local School District	\$30	Equally paid to the Jackson Local Schools Foundation and the Jackson High School Alumni Association for the Foundation's and Alumni Association's purposes.
"Suicide Prevention" license plate <sup>14</sup>	Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation	\$25	For suicide prevention programs, education, and advocacy.

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<sup>9</sup> R.C. 4503.585.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 4503.586.

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 4503.587.

<sup>12</sup> R.C. 4503.588.

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 4503.598.

<sup>14</sup> R.C. 4503.726.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution <sup>2</sup>
"H.E.A.R.T. 4 Seniors" license plate <sup>15</sup>	Heart4seniors/healthcare Evolution Alert Response Technology Foundation, Inc.	\$30	For purposes of the Foundation's mission.
"Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution" license plate <sup>16</sup>	Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution	\$10	For continuing the Society's endeavors in service, historic preservation, education, and patriotism.
"West Virginia University" license plate <sup>17</sup>	West Virginia University	\$25	For awarding grants or scholarships to Ohio residents who attend the University. The University may not use any of the funds it receives for administrative costs.
"Blanchester Wildcats" license plate <sup>18</sup>	Blanchester Schools Foundation	\$20	For funding student scholarships and for funding activities and programs for at-risk students.
"Lakeside Chautauqua" license plate <sup>19</sup>	Lake Chautauqua Foundation	\$25	For conservation and preservation of Lake Erie and the surrounding ecosystem.
"American Legion Auxiliary" license plate <sup>20</sup>	American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio	\$10	To support the American Legion, current and former military members, and their families.

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<sup>15</sup> R.C. 4503.735.

<sup>16</sup> R.C. 4503.766.

<sup>17</sup> R.C. 4503.851.

<sup>18</sup> R.C. 4503.894.

<sup>19</sup> R.C. 4503.895.

<sup>20</sup> R.C. 4503.896. This specialty license plate is exempt from the requirement (R.C. 4503.78, not in the act) that the Registrar receive written statements from at least 150 people that they intend to apply for and obtain the license plates before the Registrar provides for their issuance.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution <sup>2</sup>
"Ohio Society for Respiratory Care" license plate <sup>21</sup>	Ohio Society for Respiratory Care of the American Association for Respiratory Care, Inc.	\$25	To benefit the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care Student Scholarship Fund.
"Jesup W. Scott High School" license plate <sup>22</sup>	Jesup W. Scott High School	\$10	To Jesup W. Scott High School's Principal Activities Fund to enhance learning opportunities for the high school's students.
"Hilliard Davidson Wildcats" license plate <sup>23</sup>	Hilliard City School District	\$30	To support the Hilliard Davidson Baseball Club.
"Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland" license plate <sup>24</sup>	Weird Cat Lovers of Cleveland	\$15	To further its mission of assisting pet parents with emergency veterinary bills for their feline companions, providing food and litter to those in economic need, and controlling feral cat populations through the process of trap-neuter-return to the community.
"Historical and Patriotic Education" license plate <sup>25</sup>	Ohio Society, Sons of the American Revolution	\$20	For special projects related to historical education.

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<sup>21</sup> R.C. 4503.934.

<sup>22</sup> R.C. 4503.935.

<sup>23</sup> R.C. 4503.936.

<sup>24</sup> R.C. 4503.943.

<sup>25</sup> R.C. 4503.946.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of contribution <sup>2</sup>
"Dublin City Schools" license plate <sup>26</sup>	Dublin City School District	\$25	To the Dublin food pantry, which must use the contributions to provide food, hygiene products, and other resources to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.
"Norton Music Boosters" license plate <sup>27</sup>	Norton Music Boosters Association	\$40	To provide financial assistance to the Norton high school music boosters for equipment, travel, and programming expenses.

## Changes to existing specialty license plates

### "Ohio Carpenters" license plates

The act requires the Registrar to make the "Ohio Carpenters" specialty license plates available for use on a motorcycle. Additionally, it adds a required \$10 contribution for persons who obtain the "Ohio Carpenters" specialty license plate. The Registrar must pay those contributions to the Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, who must use the money to assist its members who are experiencing financial hardship. The act retains current law which allows those who own passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle approved by the Registrar to obtain these specialty plates.<sup>28</sup>

### "American Legion" license plate

The act excludes the American Legion license plate from the general requirement that the Registrar receive written statements from at least 150 people who intend to apply for the license plate.<sup>29</sup>

### "Ohio Natural Energy Foundation" license plate

The act renames the "Ohio Natural Energy Institute" license plate to the "Ohio Natural Energy Foundation" license plate and corrects the name of the sponsoring organization. Further, it adds that the "Ohio Natural Energy Foundation" license plate may be issued for a commercial

<sup>26</sup> R.C. 4503.959.

<sup>27</sup> R.C. 4503.965.

<sup>28</sup> R.C. 4503.21 and 4503.53.

<sup>29</sup> R.C. 4503.583(D) and 4503.78, not in the act.

car, bus, trailer, or semitrailer that is not subject to the International Registration Plan (i.e., commercial vehicles that only operate in Ohio). Continuing law allows this plate to be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial vehicles, and recreational vehicles.<sup>30</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-03-23
Reported, S. Transportation	02-28-24
Passed Senate (30-0)	04-10-24
Reported, H. Homeland Security	12-11-24
Passed House (91-0)	12-11-24
Senate concurred in House amendments (31-0)	12-18-24

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<sup>30</sup> R.C. 4501.21 and 4503.584.