



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

---

## Bill Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

### H.B. 71

132nd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** DeVitis, Arndt, Becker, Blessing, Brenner, Dever, Goodman, Hood, Merrin, T. Johnson, Roegner, Romanchuk, Seitz, Stein, Perales, Patmon

---

### BILL SUMMARY

- Specifies that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle when required by law is a secondary traffic offense, which means that a law enforcement officer cannot enforce the offense unless the officer has some other valid reason to stop or cite the owner or operator of the motor vehicles.
  - Decreases the maximum fine for failure to display a license plate on the front of a vehicle from \$150 to \$100.
- 

### CONTENT AND OPERATION

#### Failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle

The bill makes failing to display a license plate on the front of a vehicle when required by law a secondary traffic offense. In doing so, the bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from issuing a ticket to or taking other enforcement actions against the owner or operator of a moving or parked motor vehicle *solely* because the owner or operator has failed to display a front license plate. In order to enforce the prohibition, the law enforcement officer must have some other valid reason to stop or cite the owner or operator of the motor vehicle. The other valid reason could be that the law enforcement officer observed the vehicle owner or operator commit an additional traffic offense, such as failure to yield the right-of-way.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4503.21(B) and 4511.043(B).

Under the bill, the failure to display a front license plate when required by law is a minor misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$100. The bill further states that no points may be assessed on a person's license for this violation.<sup>2</sup>

Current law states that the failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle when required by law also is a minor misdemeanor. However, the maximum fine for the offense is \$150. In addition, the violation is a primary offense, which means a person could be issued a ticket, citation, summons, or be arrested or stopped solely for committing such a violation.<sup>3</sup>

---

## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-21-17

H0071-I-132.docx/ks

---

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.21(C)(2).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 2929.28, not in the bill, and 4503.21(C)(1).

