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S.B. 179
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Uecker and Hottinger

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SUMMARY

- Repeals the provisions that, effective July 1, 2020, would require a motor vehicle to display only one license plate rather than two license plates (one front and one rear).
- Retains and continues current law requiring the display of two license plates for most motor vehicles.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

License plates

Under current law, most motor vehicles (including passenger vehicles) must display two license plates, one front and one rear. However, beginning July 1, 2020, pursuant to provisions enacted through H.B. 62 of the 133rd General Assembly (the transportation budget), motor vehicles in Ohio will only need to display one license plate, generally on the rear of the motor vehicle.¹ The bill repeals the provisions from H.B. 62 that would require the display of only one license plate, and retains and continues current law requiring most motor vehicles to display two license plates.²

Other retained law

The bill retains and continues the following related license plate provisions:

¹ Commercial tractors are an exception and must display the license plate on the front of the motor vehicle.

² R.C. 4503.19, 4503.193, 4503.21, 4503.23, and 4549.10; Section 812.40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 62 of the 133rd General Assembly.

1. The \$7.50 cost for a front and rear plate and \$6.50 cost for a single plate;³
2. Criminal penalties for failing to display two license plates – as a primary offense for a moving motor vehicle and secondary offense for a legally parked motor vehicle;⁴ and
3. Vehicles currently permitted to display only one license plate may continue to do so: motorcycles, motorized bicycles, trailers, semi-trailers, apportioned vehicles under the International Registration Plan, manufactured homes, mobile homes, and historical motor vehicles.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-29-19

S0179-I-133/ec

³ R.C. 4503.19(A)(5).

⁴ R.C. 4503.21.

⁵ R.C. 4503.21(A)(1)(a) and 4503.181, not in the bill.