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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

Am. Sub. S.B. 232
123rd General Assembly
(As Passed by the Senate)

Sens. Oelslager, Wachtmann, McLin, Latta, Johnson, Hottinger, Schafrath, Carnes, Spada, Prentiss, Watts, Herington, Cupp, Gardner, DiDonato, Latell

BILL SUMMARY

- Eliminates the additional \$10 fee that a person pays to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when first obtaining or renewing the following special license plates: Ohio National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces Reserves, U.S. Armed Forces retiree or honorably discharged veteran, Purple Heart, and Pearl Harbor.
- Allows a Purple Heart recipient to receive Purple Heart license plates for more than one vehicle owned by the recipient.
- Authorizes issuance of "The Leader in Flight" license plates, bearing illustrations of a space shuttle and the Wright "B" airplane, upon payment of all applicable fees and taxes, plus an additional \$10 fee to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Special license plates related to military service

Current law authorizes issuance of special license plates related to military service for: (1) members of Ohio National Guard or U.S. Armed Forces Reserves, (2) U.S. Armed Forces retirees or honorably discharged veterans, (3) Purple Heart recipients, and (4) Pearl Harbor survivors. The special license plates, which are inscribed with appropriate words or markings, are available to persons who meet the specific requirements for the respective license plates and who pay a regular license fee, any local motor vehicle license tax, and an additional \$10 fee to compensate the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for additional services required in issuing the special plates.

The bill eliminates the additional \$10 fee that a person pays to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when first obtaining or renewing these special license plates (secs. 4503.48, 4503.54, 4503.571, and 4503.59). (See **COMMENT.**)

The bill makes the following conforming changes in regard to special license plates related to military service:

(1) For Ohio National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces Reserves, and U.S. Armed Forces retiree or honorably discharged veteran license plates, it specifies that the license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number, as is already the case for the other plates covered by the bill (secs. 4503.48 and 4503.54);

(2) For Purple Heart recipient and Pearl Harbor survivor license plates (as is already the case for the bill's other military-related plates), it specifies that the license plates may be obtained for motor homes rather than recreational vehicles (secs. 4503.571 and 4503.59).

"The Leader in Flight" license plates

(sec. 4503.73)

Under the bill, the owner or lessee of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, motor home, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles may apply to the Registrar for the registration of the vehicle and issuance of "The Leader in Flight" license plates. The application for the license plates may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate (also commonly known as "vanity plates") provided in current law. Upon receipt of the completed application and payment of the applicable taxes and fees as explained below, the Registrar is required to issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "The Leader in Flight" license plates with a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone once the person already has "The Leader in Flight" plate.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, "The Leader in Flight" license plates must be inscribed with the words "The Leader in Flight" and illustrations of a space shuttle in a vertical position and the Wright "B" airplane. The license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number.

"The Leader in Flight" license plates and validation sticker are issued upon payment of the regular state and local taxes and fees prescribed in current law, a fee of \$10 for the purpose of compensating the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for additional services required in the issuing of "The Leader in Flight" license plates,

and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. If the application for "The Leader in Flight" license plates is combined with a request for a vanity plate, the applicant must also pay the additional fee specified for those plates.

The Registrar is required to deposit in the existing State Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund the additional \$10 fee that the applicant for registration pays for the purpose of compensating the Bureau.

COMMENT

Other available special license plates that are related to military service include plates for: (1) disabled veterans, (2) Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, (3) former prisoners of war, and (4) veterans who served in certain combat zones. However, applicants for these special license plates currently do not pay the \$10 fee to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for additional services required in issuing the special plates. (Secs. 4503.41, 4503.43, 4503.46, and 4503.53.)

Marine Corps League members may also obtain a special license plate. Applicants for these plates currently pay the \$10 fee to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for additional services (sec. 4503.58).

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|---|----------|---------------|
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