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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

Am. H.B. 291

124th General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Transportation & Public Safety)

**Reps. Damschroder, Lendrum, Reidelbach, Schneider, Oakar, Patton,
Schaffer, Hagan, Manning**

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes the issuance of "Ohio Zoo" license plates bearing identifying words or markings selected by Ohio's major metropolitan zoos and approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
- Requires the Registrar to collect a contribution of \$15 for each application for registration and registration renewal that involves "Ohio Zoo" license plates.
- Requires the contributions collected from persons who are issued the license plates to be deposited into the "Ohio Zoo" License Plate Fund, which the bill creates, and paid to the Columbus Zoological Park Association, which must disburse the moneys to Ohio's major metropolitan zoos in accordance with a written agreement entered into by those zoos.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

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 "Ohio Zoo" license plates. The application for "Ohio Zoo" license plates may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law. Upon receipt of the completed application and compliance with the requirements of the bill, the Registrar is required to issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "Ohio Zoo" license plates with a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when required by current law.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, "Ohio Zoo" license plates must be inscribed with identifying words or markings selected by Ohio's major metropolitan zoos and approved by the Registrar. "Ohio Zoo" license plates also must bear the usual county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. (Sec. 4503.74(A).)

"Ohio Zoo" license plates and a validation sticker or, when applicable, a validation sticker alone are issued upon receipt of an application for registration of a motor vehicle submitted under the bill and a contribution of \$15 as provided in the bill (see below); payment of the regular license taxes prescribed in current law, any applicable local motor vehicle tax, and a fee of \$10 for the purpose of compensating the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) for additional services required in the issuing of "Ohio Zoo" license plates; and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. If the application for "Ohio Zoo" license plates is combined with a request for a special reserved license plate, the additional fee prescribed for special reserved plates is also required. (Sec. 4503.74(B) and (C).)

For each application for registration and registration renewal that the Registrar receives under the bill, the Registrar is required to collect a contribution of \$15 and transmit it to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the "Ohio Zoo" License Plate Fund, which the bill creates (see below). The Registrar also is required to deposit into the existing Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund the additional \$10 administrative cost fee. (Sec. 4503.74(C).)

Under the bill, "Ohio's major metropolitan zoos" means the following public, nonprofit zoos: the Akron Zoo, the Cincinnati Zoo, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the Columbus Zoo, and the Toledo Zoo. (Sec. 4503.74(D).)

The bill creates in the state treasury the "Ohio Zoo" License Plate Fund, consisting of the contributions that are paid to the Registrar by applicants who choose to obtain "Ohio Zoo" license plates. All investment earnings of the Fund must be credited to the Fund. All moneys in the fund must be paid to the Columbus Zoological Park Association, which must disburse the moneys to Ohio's major metropolitan zoos in accordance with a written agreement entered into by those zoos. (Sec. 4501.38.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	06-07-01	p. 636
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	10-17-01	pp. 945-946

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