



## **H.B. 302**

125th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Rep. Walcher**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates a "U.S. Armed Forces Active Duty" license plate that can be obtained by persons who are on active duty in any branch of the U.S. armed forces.
- Specifically exempts these license plates from the minimum registration requirements and termination and revival provisions of current law that generally apply to new special license plates.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **U.S. Armed Forces Active Duty license plates**

Current law provides for a special license plate that may be obtained by a person who is a retired or honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the United States armed forces. The application for the special license plate must be accompanied by acceptable written evidence that the applicant is a retired or honorably discharged veteran. Upon receipt of the registration application, presentation of the written evidence, and payment of the regular license fees and any local motor vehicle license taxes, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles issues to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration, a set of license plates, and a validation sticker, or only a validation sticker in the case of renewal of the plates. In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, these special license plates have either "U.S. ARMED FORCES RETIRED--(BRANCH OF SERVICE)" or "U.S. ARMED FORCES VETERAN--(BRANCH OF SERVICE)" inscribed on them. (R.C. 4503.54.)

The bill permits persons who are on active duty in any branch of the U.S. armed forces to obtain a new "U.S. Armed Forces Active Duty" license plate in the same manner as retired and honorably discharged veterans, except that such a person must present satisfactory written evidence proving that the person is on

active duty. The new license plate would have the inscription "U.S. ARMED FORCES ACTIVE DUTY--(BRANCH OF SERVICE)." (R.C. 4503.54(A).)

**Exemption from the minimum registration requirements and termination provisions generally applicable to special license plates**

Under current law, certain enumerated special license plates, and generally all special license plates created since the passage of a 1997 act,\* are subject to a minimum registration requirement and to termination and revival procedures. For example, the Registrar is not required to implement any legislation that creates a new license plate until the Registrar receives written statements from at least 1,000 persons indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain the special license plate. (R.C. 4503.78, not in the bill.) If, during any calendar year, the total number of new and renewal motor vehicle registrations involving a particular type of nonstandard special license plate totals less than 1,000, the issuance of that special license plate may cease as of December 31 of the following year. A special license plate whose issuance is so ended may be revived if certain conditions are met. (R.C. 4503.77, not in the bill.)

These provisions do not apply to the current special license plates for retired and honorably discharged U.S. veterans. (See **COMMENT**.) The bill specifically exempts the new active duty license plate from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures (R.C. 4503.54(B)).

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**COMMENT**

The 1997 act exempted the military-related special plates in effect at that time from the general new special license plate minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures established by that act.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	10-15-03	p. 1114

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\* *Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 122nd General Assembly.*