



H.B. 329

125th General Assembly

(As Introduced)

Reps. Schlichter, Wagner, Hoops, DeWine, C. Evans, Carano, Hughes, Allen, Husted, Fessler, Ujvagi, Price, Seitz, Clancy, Bocchieri

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes the issuance of "National Defense" license plates bearing the words "National Defense" and a reproduction of the National Defense Service Ribbon.
- Limits issuance of the license plates to those persons who have been awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"National Defense" license plates

(R.C. 4503.541)

Under the bill, any person who has been awarded the National Defense Service Medal may apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, motor home, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar that the person owns or leases. Any documentary evidence in support of the award as the Registrar may require must accompany the application, and it may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law.

Upon receipt of a motor vehicle registration application and the required taxes and fees and upon presentation of the required supporting evidence of the award of the National Defense Service Medal, the Registrar is required to issue to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration and a set of license plates and a validation sticker or a validation sticker alone in the case of renewal of the plates.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, those issued under the bill must bear the words "National Defense" and a

reproduction of the National Defense Service Ribbon. The license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number.

The license plates and validation sticker or, when applicable, a validation sticker alone are issued upon payment of the regular license tax prescribed in current law, any applicable local motor vehicle license tax, any applicable additional special reserved license plate fee, and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles.

The bill prohibits (1) any person who is not a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal from willfully and falsely representing that the person is a recipient of that medal for the purpose of obtaining license plates under the bill, and (2) any person from owning a motor vehicle bearing license plates issued under the bill unless the person is eligible to be issued those license plates. (See **COMMENT.**)

COMMENT

The bill does not contain a specific penalty for a violation of its prohibitions, but the general falsification statute (R.C. 2921.13) would apply. Such a violation would be a first degree misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

The provision of current law (R.C. 4503.78) that requires the signatures of 1,000 persons expressing their intent to obtain a new special license plate be submitted to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles before the Registrar is required to issue the new plate applies to National Defense license plates.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	11-13-03	p. 1058

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