



H.B. 405

125th General Assembly

(As Introduced)

Reps. Grendell, D. Evans, Faber, Fessler, Gilb, Allen, Hoops, Hughes, Jerse, Kearns, Latta, McGregor, Olman, Schaffer, Setzer, D. Stewart, Trakas, Taylor, Ujvagi, Walcher, Webster, Willamowski, Williams

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes the issuance of "Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal" license plates bearing the words "Expeditionary Service" and a reproduction of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Ribbon.
- Limits issuance of the license plates to those persons who have been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- Specifically exempts the license plates from the minimum registration requirements and termination and revival provisions of current law that generally apply to new special license plates.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal" license plates

(R.C. 4503.541)

Under the bill, any person who has been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary 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.

Upon receipt of a motor vehicle registration application and the regular required state and local taxes and fees and upon presentation of the required supporting evidence of the award, the Registrar must issue 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 "Expeditionary Service" and a reproduction of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Ribbon. The license plates must also bear the usual county identification stickers that identify the county of registration.

The bill prohibits (1) any person who is not a recipient of the Armed Forces Expeditionary 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. (R.C. 4503.541(B).) (See **COMMENT 1**.)

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

Under the current law, certain enumerated special license plates, and generally all special license plates created since the passage of a 1997 act¹ 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.) (See **COMMENT 2**.)

The bill specifically exempts Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plates from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures (R.C. 4503.541(C)).

COMMENT

1. 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.

¹ *Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 122nd General Assembly.*



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.

2. 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.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-04-04	p. 1603

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