



H.B. 204

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Latta, Trakas, McGregor, C. Evans, Gibbs, Wagoner, Allen, Fessler, Hartnett, Walcher, Chandler, Ujvagi, Law, D. Evans, Kearns, Williams, Seaver, Hughes, Aslanides, Harwood, Schaffer

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates "Operation Iraqi Freedom" license plates and limits their availability to any person who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or is a retired or honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the U.S. armed forces and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Operation Iraqi Freedom" license plates

Under the bill, any person who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or is a retired or honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the U.S. armed forces and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 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 the person owns or leases. The application must be accompanied by such written evidence that the applicant is on active duty or is a retired or honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. armed forces and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Registrar must require by rule. The application may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law. (R.C. 4503.531(A).)

Upon receipt of the proper motor vehicle registration application; presentation of satisfactory evidence of military service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; payment of the applicable regular license tax, any applicable local motor vehicle tax, and any additional special reserved license plate fee; and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles, the Registrar must issue to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle

registration and a set of license plates and 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, the license plates must be inscribed with the words "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and bear a reproduction of the Operation Iraqi Freedom service ribbon. The license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. (R.C. 4503.531(B).)

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 October 21, 1997, 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.)

The bill exempts "Operation Iraqi Freedom" license plates from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures (R.C. 4503.531(C)). This is consistent with the military-related special license plates that existed at the time of enactment of the special license plate minimum requirement and the termination and revival procedures (those military-related special license plates were exempted from those provisions by virtue of not having been included within the definition of "nonstandard license plate" in R.C. 4503.77) and the military-related special license plates that have been created since the enactment of those provisions.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	04-19-05	p. 674

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