



S.B. 31

127th General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Highways & Transportation)

Sens. Kearney, Clancy, Austria, Schuring

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates, available to members of nine specific historically black fraternities and sororities.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Under the bill, the owner or lessee of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles who is a member of a historically black fraternity or sorority may apply for issuance of Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates. The bill defines "historically black fraternity or sorority" as the following specific organizations, each of which belongs to the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc.: (1) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., (2) Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., (3) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., (4) Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., (5) Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., (6) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., (7) Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., (8) Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and (9) Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (R.C. 4503.513(A) and (E).)

The request for Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law. Upon receipt of the completed application, proof of membership in one of the historically black fraternities or sororities listed above, as required by the Registrar, and compliance by the applicant with the bill's additional requirements, the Registrar must issue the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates indicating the particular historically black fraternity or sorority of which the applicant is a member. The registration is issued with a validation sticker or a validation sticker alone when required by current law. (R.C. 4503.513(A).)

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on the license plates, each Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plate must be inscribed

with the name of a historically black fraternity or sorority or the Greek letters of the fraternity or sorority, or both. The Registrar must approve the design of each Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plate, which must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. (R.C. 4503.513(A).)

Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates and validation stickers 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, an additional \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee, and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. The Registrar must collect the \$10 BMV fee for every new and renewal registration application received under the bill. The additional \$10 BMV fee is to compensate the Bureau for additional services required in connection with issuing the Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates. The Registrar must deposit all such fees into the state treasury to the credit of the existing State Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund. (R.C. 4503.513(B) and (C).)

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 August 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 is 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 Historically Black Fraternity-Sorority license plates from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures (R.C. 4503.513(D)).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-20-07
Reported, S. Highways & Transportation	05-01-07

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