



S.B. 215

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Stivers, Wilson, Kearney, Clancy, Schuler

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates five new military-related special license plates available to eligible persons for no additional charge: (1) a Global War on Terrorism special license plate for active duty and honorable discharged persons who served in the United States Armed Forces during the Global War on Terrorism, (2) a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal special license plate, (3) a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal special license plate, (4) an Afghanistan Campaign Medal special license plate, and (5) an Iraq Campaign Medal special license plate.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Global War on Terrorism combat zone special license plate

Under current law, any person who is on active duty or is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces is eligible for special license plates in recognition of the following military service: (1) in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield, (2) in Panama during the invasion, (3) in Grenada during the invasion, (4) in Lebanon during the invasion, (5) during the Vietnam Conflict, (6) during the Korean Conflict, (7) during World War II, or (8) during World War I. The person may apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar that the person owns or leases. Written evidence of the applicant's service must accompany the application as required by the Registrar; specifically, in the case of an honorably discharged veteran, the written evidence must include a copy of the applicant's DD-214 form or an equivalent document.

Upon receipt of an application for registration, presentation of satisfactory evidence of military service in or during the specified war or conflict, payment of the regular license tax and any applicable local tax, the Registrar must issue the

applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration and a set of license plates and a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when so required by current law. In accordance with rules adopted by the Registrar, each license plate is inscribed with identifying letters or numerals, the word "VETERAN," and, in addition, a design and words indicating service in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Panama, Grenada, or Lebanon, or during the Vietnam Conflict, the Korean Conflict, World War II, or World War I, as applicable.

In addition to these currently available license plates, the bill establishes that any person who served in the United States Armed Forces during the Global War on Terrorism may apply for special license plates indicating that service. The license plate is issued upon proof of service and payment of the regular state and local license plate taxes and is inscribed to indicate service during the Global War on Terrorism. The bill also revises existing law so that if the applicant for a military service license plate is still on active duty, the plate is not required to bear the word "veteran." (R.C. 4503.53.)

Service medal special license plates

Under the bill, any person who has been awarded the (1) Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, (2) Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, (3) Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or (4) Iraq Campaign Medal may apply to the Registrar for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar that the person owns or leases. The application must be accompanied by such written evidence that the applicant has been awarded the specified medal as the Registrar may require. The application may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law.

Upon receipt of an application for registration of a motor vehicle under the bill, presentation of the required supporting evidence of the award, compliance with all registration-related laws, and payment of the regular license fee, any applicable local motor vehicle license tax, and any applicable fee for issuance of special reserved license plates, 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 when required by current law.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, the license plates must be inscribed with appropriate words indicating the applicable award and bear a reproduction of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or Iraq Campaign Medal, as applicable. However, the Registrar may not issue the license plates under the bill unless the Registrar first receives written permission from the United States Department of Defense allowing the

Registrar to place the image of the medal on the license plates. The license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. (R.C. 4503.531(A).)

Under the bill, no person who is not a recipient of one of the four medals may willfully and falsely represent that the person is a recipient of any such medal for the purpose of obtaining the license plates authorized by the bill. Further, no person may own a motor vehicle bearing the service medal special license plates issued under the bill unless the person is eligible to be issued those license plates. The bill does not establish a penalty for violation of these prohibitions. (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 such a 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 service medal special license plates from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures (R.C. 4503.531(C)). This is consistent with the law's treatment of 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 and the military-related special license plates that have been created since the enactment of those provisions.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-18-07

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