Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Joseph G. Aninao

Am. H.B. 45

130th General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Transportation, Public Safety, & Homeland Security)

Reps. Johnson, Terhar, Retherford, Dovilla, Maag, Grossman, Ruhl, Rosenberger, Gonzales, Scherer, Landis, Derickson, Cera, Mallory, Bucky, Brenner, Pillich, Hackett, Strahorn, Damschroder, Celebrezze, Green

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the "Military Sacrifice" license plate.
- Specifies that "Military Sacrifice" license plates may only be issued to a member of the immediate family of a person who died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and not of willful misconduct as a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or the Coast Guard.
- Requires "Military Sacrifice" license plates to be issued upon the submission of a completed application, payment of applicable fees, and compliance with applicable laws related to registration.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill creates the "Military Sacrifice" license plate inscribed with a distinctive emblem and the words "military sacrifice." "Military Sacrifice" license plates may only be issued to a member of the immediate family of a person who has died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and not of willful misconduct in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or the Coast Guard. Under the bill, an eligible person must apply for registration of their vehicle and issuance of the plates. Upon receipt of the application, payment of the applicable fees and taxes, and compliance with all applicable laws relating to registration, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles must issue the "Military Sacrifice" plates and a validation sticker.[1]

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[1] R.C. 4503.549(A) and (B).

The bill specifies that a person who is not a member of the immediate family of a person who has died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and not of willful misconduct in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or the Coast Guard must not willfully or falsely represent that the person is an immediate family member in order to obtain a "Military Sacrifice" license plate. The bill does not provide a penalty for such a willful or false representation; however, current law provisions may apply. Current law prohibits a person from knowingly making a false statement with the purpose of misleading a public official in performing the public official's official function or to secure the issuance of a registration by a governmental agency. The penalty for either violation is a first degree misdemeanor.[2]

For purposes of the bill, "member of the immediate family" is defined to mean any of the following persons: a spouse; a parent, stepparent, or other person who acted in loco parentis; a sibling, including a half sibling or adopted sibling; a child, including an adopted child or stepchild; and a grandparent.[3]

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-12-13
Reported, H. Transportation, Public Safety, and Homeland Security	02-19-14

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[2] R.C. 2921.13 (A) and (F) (not in the bill).

[3] R.C. 4503.549(C) and (D).