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State Representative Terry Johnson
Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Green, Ranking Member Sheehy,

Thank you for taking the time to hear House Bill 194, a bill to create an automatic process for designing and approving military license plates recognizing awards for valor and service.

Ohio currently has almost 50 different license plates related to military service which were each individually created in code by the legislature. As our nation continues it's conflicts in foreign lands, the Institute of Heraldry continues to update and create awards related to military service. The new campaign against the Islamic State is titled *Operation Inherent Resolve*. With the new campaign, comes a new medal for service in that theater of conflict.

Today, we have service men and women returning home who are trying to get license plates recognizing their service in this conflict. Unfortunately, we in the legislature have not created a plate for this particular conflict so they are out of luck.

Additionally, we in the legislature have created license plates for various badges awarded by the US military and have assumed their name and design would be permanent. The military, however, doesn't think like us. For instance, in 2004 the military retired their Scuba Diver badge and split it in to 6 different badges, each with different names in the Army alone. How are we in the legislature supposed to account for that in code? How is the Department of Public Safety supposed to account for those types of changes?

My colleague, Representative Craig, will explain our proposal to fix this for the future.