



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Margaret E. Marcy

H.B. 150

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Patmon

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates a special vehicle license plate that persons with a hearing impairment may voluntarily request to identify the vehicle as being owned or leased by a person with a hearing impairment.
 - To obtain the special license plate, requires a signed statement by a person's personal physician certifying that the person has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in one or both ears.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Special license plate for persons with a hearing impairment

The bill creates a special license plate for persons with a hearing impairment that may be voluntarily obtained at the time of registration of a motor vehicle that is owned or leased by the person. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to design the special license plate, which must include an identifiable letter, number, or design in addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily included on license plates. The identifiable letter, number, or design is intended to alert a law enforcement officer that the person operating the motor vehicle has a hearing impairment. In order to obtain the special license plate, the application for the special license plate must be accompanied by a signed statement from the applicant's personal physician certifying that the applicant has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in one or both ears.¹

¹ R.C. 4503.441.

Sun visor identification card under current law

A related provision of current law allows a person with a hearing impairment to apply for a special identification card from the Registrar that identifies the person as hearing impaired. The card is approximately the size of a motor vehicle sun visor and may be attached to the sun visor. It contains the heading "Identification Card for the Hearing-impaired Driver" along with the name and signature of the hearing-impaired person to which it was issued, an identifying number, and instructions on the actions the person with a hearing impairment should take or refrain from taking if the person is stopped by a law enforcement officer. To be eligible for the card, the person must have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in one or both ears, which is the same threshold for eligibility for the special license plate under the bill.²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-22-17

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² R.C. 4507.141.

