



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** H.B. 150 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Rep. Patmon

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Special license plate for persons with a hearing impairment

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### State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- In the first year of its availability, the Bureau of Motor Vehicle's cost to issue a special license plate to persons with a hearing impairment could be as much as \$180,000 or more. These costs should be easily absorbed by the BMV, given its total annual budget of over \$130 million. Presumably, the number applying in future years will be relatively small, and the associated costs minimal.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates a special license plate for persons with a hearing impairment that is available upon request and submission of a signed statement from the applicant's physician certifying that the applicant has a hearing impairment. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) currently produces special license plates using a digital print on demand process. The total cost to produce a pair of these plates is \$6.08. While the bill does not specify any additional fees for issuance of this special license plate, the applicant is still required to pay annual state vehicle registration fees totaling \$31 and up to \$20 in local permissive motor vehicle taxes.

LSC estimates that the number of currently licensed hearing-impaired drivers in Ohio is around 30,000, based on the number of licensed drivers in Ohio in calendar year 2016 (7,897,922) and preliminary research suggesting that, of those drivers, 0.37% are hearing-impaired. If all of those estimated hearing-impaired drivers applied for this special license plate in the first year of its availability, the cost to the BMV would total around \$180,000 (30,000 x \$6.08). These costs should be easily absorbed by the BMV, as the amount of money typically appropriated for its operations annually is over \$130 million. Presumably, the number applying in future years will be relatively small, and the associated costs to the BMV will be minimal. The bill has no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.