

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 339**

**Representative Hoops**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Deeter, Jarrells, Click, Johnson, Gross, Kishman, Odioso, Abrams, Sigrist, Brennan, Russo, Stephens, Williams, Rogers, White, A., Newman**

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| To amend section 4503.571 of the Revised Code to | 1 |
| allow the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart     | 2 |
| recipient to retain or obtain the "Purple Heart" | 3 |
| specialty license plate.                         | 4 |

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

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| <b>Section 1.</b> That section 4503.571 of the Revised Code be | 5 |
| amended to read as follows:                                    | 6 |

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| <b>Sec. 4503.571.</b> (A) (1) Any person who has been awarded the | 7  |
| purple heart may apply to the registrar of motor vehicles for     | 8  |
| the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor        | 9  |
| vehicle, recreational vehicle, motorcycle when the registrar      | 10 |
| determines that producing a purple heart motorcycle license       | 11 |
| plate is feasible, or other vehicle of a class approved by the    | 12 |
| registrar that the person owns or leases. The application shall   | 13 |
| be accompanied by such documentary evidence in support of the     | 14 |
| award as the registrar may require. The application may be        | 15 |
| combined with a request for a special reserved license plate      | 16 |
| under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code.             | 17 |

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| If the applicant also is eligible for license plates | 18 |
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imprinted with the international symbol of access under section 19  
4503.41 of the Revised Code, the applicant may apply to have the 20  
purple heart license plates that are issued to the applicant 21  
display the international symbol of access. The application 22  
shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence in support of 23  
the disability and of the vehicle alterations as the registrar 24  
requires under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code. 25

(2) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a 26  
motor vehicle under this section ~~and any required taxes~~, and 27  
upon presentation of the required supporting evidence of the 28  
award of the purple heart and, as applicable, the evidence 29  
required under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code, the 30  
registrar shall issue to the applicant the appropriate motor 31  
vehicle registration and a set of license plates and a 32  
validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when required 33  
by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code. 34

(3) In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily 35  
inscribed on the license plates, the license plates shall be 36  
inscribed with the words "PURPLE HEART." When applicable, the 37  
license plates also shall display the international symbol of 38  
access. The license plates shall bear county identification 39  
stickers that identify the county of registration as required 40  
under section 4503.19 of the Revised Code. 41

(B) The Except as provided in division (D) of this 42  
section, the license plates and validation stickers shall be 43  
issued without the payment of any registration fee and service 44  
fee required by sections 4503.04, 4503.10, and 4503.102 of the 45  
Revised Code, and without the payment of any local motor vehicle 46  
license tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code. The 47  
applicant shall comply with all other applicable laws relating 48

to the registration of motor vehicles. If the application is 49  
combined with a request for a special reserved license plate 50  
under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, the 51  
license plates and validation sticker shall be issued upon 52  
payment of seventy-five per cent of the additional fee 53  
prescribed under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code. 54

(C) No person who is not a recipient of the purple heart\_ 55  
or the spouse of such person, if that spouse has not remarried, 56  
shall willfully and falsely represent that the person is a 57  
recipient of a purple heart or the spouse of such person for the 58  
purpose of obtaining license plates under this section. No 59  
person shall own a motor vehicle bearing license plates under 60  
this section unless the person is eligible to be issued those 61  
license plates. ~~When~~ Except as provided in division (D) of this 62  
section, when the ownership of a motor vehicle registered under 63  
this section is transferred under section 4503.12 of the Revised 64  
Code after the death of the owner, the registrar shall ensure 65  
that the purple heart license plates are replaced by non-purple 66  
heart license plates with the amended registration required 67  
under that section. 68

(D) (1) The spouse of a deceased recipient of the purple 69  
heart, if that spouse has not remarried and if the deceased 70  
person was issued or was eligible for the purple heart license 71  
plates issued under division (A) of this section, may apply to 72  
the registrar to retain license plates previously issued to the 73  
deceased person under this section or may apply for registration 74  
under this section. The application for registration shall be 75  
accompanied by documentary evidence of the deceased person's 76  
award of the purple heart and by any other evidence that the 77  
registrar requires by rule. 78

(2) Division (B) of this section does not apply to the 79  
spouse of a deceased recipient of the purple heart. The 80  
registrar may allow the spouse to retain the license plates or 81  
may issue the license plates upon payment of the regular 82  
registration taxes and fees required by sections 4503.038, 83  
4503.04, 4503.10, 4503.102, and 4503.103 of the Revised Code, 84  
any applicable motor vehicle license tax levied under Chapter 85  
4504. of the Revised Code, any applicable additional fee 86  
prescribed by section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, 87  
and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the 88  
registration of motor vehicles. 89

**Section 2.** That existing section 4503.571 of the Revised 90  
Code is hereby repealed. 91