

As Passed by the House

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, Willis, Grim, Abdullahi, Baker, Barhorst, Bird, Brent, Brewer, Brownlee, Claggett, Cockley, Daniels, Glassburn, Hall, D., Hall, T., Hiner, Isaacsohn, John, Klopfenstein, Lampton, LaRe, Lawson-Rowe, Lear, Lett, Lorenz, Manning, Mathews, A., McClain, Miller, K., Miller, M., Mohamed, Mullins, Oelslager, Peterson, Piccolantonio, Plummer, Richardson, Ritter, Robb Blasdel, Robinson, Roemer, Salvo, Schmidt, Sims, Somani, Thomas, C., Tims, Upchurch, White, E., Workman, Young

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:

Section 1. That section 4503.571 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4503.571. (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

If the applicant also is eligible for license plates 18
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 Revised Code, and without the payment of any local motor vehicle license tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code. The applicant shall comply with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. If the application is combined with a request for a special reserved license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, the license plates and validation sticker shall be issued upon payment of seventy-five per cent of the additional fee prescribed under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code.

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

(D) (1) The spouse of a deceased recipient of the purple heart, if that spouse has not remarried and if the deceased person was issued or was eligible for the purple heart license plates issued under division (A) of this section, may apply to the registrar to retain license plates previously issued to the deceased person under this section or may apply for registration under this section. The application for registration shall be

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