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Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 632
(with AM1771)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 632's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Veterans and Military Development

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ritter

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) estimates additional costs of at least \$75,000 to \$100,000 to create and implement a “Gold Star Family Member” and “Next of Kin” designation that may be included on a person’s driver’s license or state identification card (if a black and white symbol or emblem is used).
- In order to implement a color symbol or emblem, the BMV will likely renegotiate its existing vendor contract to be able to produce a color symbol or emblem. Any resulting costs would depend on the terms of the renegotiated contract and would be higher than the costs noted in the bullet above.

Detailed Analysis

The bill allows a person to indicate, for purposes of applying for a driver’s license (DL) or state identification (ID) card, whether the applicant is a “Gold Star Family Member”¹ or a “Next of Kin Family Member.”² Upon proof of documentation, the bill allows the applicant to have a folded flag symbol, which consists of a folded military burial flag, with golden stars, and the words “Gold Star Family” or “Next of Kin” on their DL or state ID card, as applicable.

State credentials (i.e., DL and state ID card) are issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), housed under the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and are currently produced using

¹ Any member of the immediate family of a person who died in a combat zone while a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States.

² A person who is a surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister of a deceased veteran.

preprinted color card stock and then the data is engraved with a laser that is black and white. Based on costs incurred for prior driver's license and state ID card updates, the BMV estimates that it will incur at least \$75,000 to \$100,000 to implement a black and white symbol or emblem indicating that the holder of a DL or state ID card is a "Gold Star Family Member" or a "Next of Kin Family Member." These costs primarily consist of BMV system updates to include the required symbol in the credential manufacturing process, which will likely necessitate vendor contract modifications, and BMV form modification (including DL and state ID card applications), as well as deputy registrar training. Additionally, the existing credentials will need to be redesigned to incorporate the bill's required symbol while still retaining existing requirements, including other legislative, identification, and security requirements.

The BMV is currently unable to create any emblems or symbols that are in color due to limitations of the current manufacturing process. Since the folded flag symbol specifically includes golden stars, the bill will effectively require the BMV to renegotiate its existing vendor contract. Any resulting increase in costs would depend on the terms of that renegotiated contract and would be in addition to the previously mentioned costs of at least \$75,000 to \$100,000.