As Introduced

136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026

S. B. No. 229

Senator Romanchuk

To enact section 4503.472 of the Revised Code to create the "Law Enforcement Purple Heart" license plate.

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

Section 1. That section 4503.472 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 4503.472. (A)(1) Any person who has been awarded the law enforcement purple heart may apply to the registrar of motor vehicles for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the registrar that the person owns or leases. The application shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence in support of the award as the registrar may require. The application may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code.

If the applicant also is eligible for license plates imprinted with the international symbol of access under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code, the applicant may apply to have the law enforcement purple heart license plates that are issued to the applicant display the international symbol of access. The

application shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence in support of the disability and of the vehicle alterations as the registrar requires under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a motor vehicle under this section, and upon presentation of the required supporting evidence of the award of the law enforcement purple heart and, as applicable, the evidence required under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code, the registrar shall issue to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration and a set of license plates and a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone, when required by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code.

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

(B) The license plates and validation stickers shall be issued without the payment of any registration fee and service fee required by sections 4503.04, 4503.10, 4503.102, and 4503.12 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)(1) No person who is not a recipient of the law enforcement purple heart shall willfully and falsely represent that the person is a recipient of a law enforcement purple heart for the purpose of obtaining license plates under this section. No person shall knowingly own a motor vehicle bearing license plates under this section unless the person is eligible to be issued those license plates.

(2) 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 law enforcement purple heart license plates are replaced by non-law enforcement purple heart license plates with the amended registration required under that section.

(D) Whoever violates division (C)(1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.