

As Reported by the Senate Transportation Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 229

Senator Romanchuk

Cosponsor: Senator Schaffer

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

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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:

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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.

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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

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the applicant display the international symbol of access. The 20
application shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence in 21
support of the disability and of the vehicle alterations as the 22
registrar requires under section 4503.41 of the Revised Code. 23

(2) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a 24
motor vehicle under this section, and upon presentation of the 25
required supporting evidence of the award of the law enforcement 26
purple heart and, as applicable, the evidence required under 27
section 4503.41 of the Revised Code, the registrar shall issue 28
to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration and 29
a set of license plates and a validation sticker, or a 30
validation sticker alone, when required by section 4503.191 of 31
the Revised Code. 32

(3) In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily 33
inscribed on the license plates, the license plates shall be 34
inscribed with the words "LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPLE HEART." When 35
applicable, the license plates also shall display the 36
international symbol of access. The license plates shall bear 37
county identification stickers that identify the county of 38
registration as required under section 4503.19 of the Revised 39
Code. 40

(B) The license plates and validation stickers shall be 41
issued without the payment of any registration fee and service 42
fee required by sections 4503.04, 4503.10, 4503.102, and 4503.12 43
of the Revised Code, and without the payment of any local motor 44
vehicle license tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised 45
Code. The applicant shall comply with all other applicable laws 46
relating to the registration of motor vehicles. If the 47
application is combined with a request for a special reserved 48
license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised 49

Code, the license plates and validation sticker shall be issued 50
upon payment of seventy-five per cent of the additional fee 51
prescribed under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code. 52

(C) (1) No person who is not a recipient of the law 53
enforcement purple heart shall willfully and falsely represent 54
that the person is a recipient of a law enforcement purple heart 55
for the purpose of obtaining license plates under this section. 56
No person shall knowingly own a motor vehicle bearing license 57
plates under this section unless the person is eligible to be 58
issued those license plates. 59

(2) When the ownership of a motor vehicle registered under 60
this section is transferred under section 4503.12 of the Revised 61
Code after the death of the owner, the registrar shall ensure 62
that the law enforcement purple heart license plates are 63
replaced by non-law enforcement purple heart license plates with 64
the amended registration required under that section. 65

(D) Whoever violates division (C) (1) of this section is 66
guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. 67