

**As Passed by the Senate**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**S. B. No. 229**

**Senator Romanchuk**

**Cosponsors: Senators Schaffer, Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Cirino, Craig,  
DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Johnson, Lang, Liston, O'Brien,  
Patton, Reineke, Roegner, Smith, Timken, Weinstein**

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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

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law enforcement purple heart license plates that are issued to 19  
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