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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 358
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 358's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Manning

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Revised

Highlights

- The bill creates the “Blackout” license plate. The license plate is subject to the minimum registration requirements of 150 applicants for the first year.
- The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will incur costs of at least \$6.35 to produce each “Blackout” license plate issued. That cost will be offset by the collection of the \$10 BMV administrative fee that is charged under existing law when a specialty license plate is issued or renewed.
- The Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5TM0) will receive \$30 for each “Blackout” license plate that is issued or renewed.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on any of the state’s political subdivisions.

Detailed Analysis

The bill creates the “Blackout” license plate, which is available to all Ohio motorists, and requires a person to pay an additional \$30 when the plate is issued and renewed. That amount consists of \$20 to obtain the “Blackout” license plate and \$10 to compensate the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) for administrative costs associated with producing the plate. The entire \$30 is retained by the BMV and credited to the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund (Fund 5TM0), which is used by the Department of Public Safety to enforce and administer the laws related to registering and operating motor vehicles in Ohio.

Specialty license plates are produced by the BMV via a digital print-on-demand process at a cost of \$6.35 for a single license plate, or \$7.70 for a pair.¹ These costs will be offset by the collection of the \$10 BMV administrative fee which is paid at the initial issuance of the license plate and for each subsequent renewal and credited to Fund 5TMO, which is used in part to pay the BMV's expenses related to titling motor vehicles, licensing drivers, and registering motor vehicles.

The "Blackout" license plate is subject to existing law's implementation procedure, meaning that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles does not have to issue the license plate until written statements from at least 150 people indicating their intent to apply for and obtain the license plate have been received.²

Assuming the minimum number of applicants meets the threshold of 150 for the first year that the "Blackout" license plate is available, the BMV will incur production costs of at least \$952.50 (150 persons x \$6.35), which will be offset by the collection of at least \$1,500 (150 persons x \$10) in BMV fees. The amount generated for Fund 5TMO will total at least \$3,000 (150 persons x \$20). In subsequent years, those amounts will vary and depend on the number of such plates that are issued or renewed.

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¹ Under current law, a person registering a motor vehicle may elect to purchase a single license plate or a set of two plates.

² R.C. 4503.78.