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S.B. 358
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Manning

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to issue “Blackout” license plates, which have a black background, white lettering, and do not include the standard design or county identification stickers of Ohio license plates.
- Requires payment of a \$40 license plate fee and a \$10 administrative fee for purchase of the license plates, all of which goes to the BMV.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

“Blackout” license plates

The bill creates the “Blackout” license plate, which has a black background with white lettering. The plate does not include the phrase “Birthplace of Aviation” or display county identification stickers, both of which are required for standard Ohio license plates. However, the license plates must display a validation sticker showing the expiration date of the vehicle’s registration.¹ The images below show examples of Blackout license plates enacted in other states:²



¹ R.C. 4503.511(A).

² Images credited to the Kansas Department of Revenue at ksrevenue.gov and the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles at in.gov/bmv.

Fees

A Blackout license plate can be purchased for a passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. In addition to the standard registration taxes and fees, the annual fee for the Blackout license plate is \$40 plus an additional \$10 BMV administrative fee, both of which must be deposited into the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund.³ Money in this fund is used by the Department of Public Safety for enforcing and administering the laws related to registering and operating motor vehicles in Ohio.⁴ Additionally, purchasers of the license plates may customize the lettering and numbering on the license plates with payment of the special reserved license plate fees.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-10-26
Reported, S. Transportation	05-13-26
Passed Senate (30-0)	05-20-26

ANSB0358PS-136/ks

³ R.C. 4503.511(B) and (C).

⁴ R.C. 4501.06, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 4503.511(A); R.C. 4503.40 and 4503.42, not in the bill.