

As Introduced

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

2015-2016

H. B. No. 159

Representatives Johnson, T., Patmon

**Cosponsors: Representatives Sweeney, Henne, Becker, Brenner, Hood, Roegner,
DeVitis, Maag, Dever, Slesnick, Perales, Ginter, Brinkman, Blessing**

A BILL

To amend sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 4503.21, 1
4503.23, and 4549.10 and to enact section 2
4503.193 of the Revised Code to require that 3
motor vehicles carry only one license plate to 4
be displayed on the rear of the vehicle, and to 5
amend the version of section 4503.21 of the 6
Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect 7
January 1, 2017, to continue the provisions of 8
this act on and after that effective date. 9

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

Section 1. That sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 4503.21, 10
4503.23, and 4549.10 be amended and section 4503.193 of the 11
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 12

Sec. 4503.181. (A) As used in this section, "historical 13
motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is more than twenty- 14
five years old and that is owned solely as a collector's item 15
and for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, 16
parades, and similar uses. A historical motor vehicle shall not 17
be used for general transportation, but may be operated on the 18

public roads and highways to and from a location where 19
maintenance is performed on the vehicle. 20

(B) In lieu of the annual license tax levied in sections 21
4503.02 and 4503.04 of the Revised Code, a license fee of ten 22
dollars is levied on the operation of a historical motor 23
vehicle. 24

(C) A person who owns a historical motor vehicle and 25
applies for a historical license plates~~plate~~ under this section 26
shall execute an affidavit that the vehicle for which ~~plates are~~ 27
the plate is requested is owned and operated solely for the 28
purposes enumerated in division (A) of this section,~~and~~. The 29
person shall include in the affidavit also setting forth in the 30
affidavit a statement that the vehicle has been inspected and 31
found safe to operate on the public roads and highways in the 32
state. A person who owns a historical motor vehicle and desires 33
to display a model year license plates~~plate~~ on the vehicle as 34
permitted by this section shall execute at the time of 35
registration an affidavit setting forth that the model year 36
license ~~plates~~plate the person desires to display on the 37
person's historical motor vehicle ~~are~~is a legible and 38
serviceable license ~~plates~~plate that originally ~~were~~was issued 39
by this state. No registration issued pursuant to this section 40
need specify the weight of the vehicle. 41

(D) A vehicle registered under this section may display 42
either a historical vehicle license plates~~plate~~ issued by the 43
registrar of motor vehicles or a model year license plates~~plate~~ 44
procured by the applicant. ~~Historical~~A historical vehicle 45
license ~~plates~~plate shall not bear a date, but shall bear the 46
inscription "Historical Vehicle--Ohio" and the registration 47
number, which shall be shown thereon. ~~Model~~A model year license 48

~~plates~~ plate shall be a legible and serviceable license ~~plates~~
plate issued by this state and inscribed with the date of the
year corresponding to the model year when the vehicle was
manufactured. ~~Notwithstanding section 4503.21 of the Revised~~
~~Code, only one~~ Two model year license ~~plate is required to~~
~~plates, duplicates of each other, may be displayed on the rear~~
~~of the historical motor vehicle at all times~~ any time, one plate
on the front and one plate on the rear of the vehicle. The
registration certificate and the historical vehicle license
~~plates~~ plate issued by the registrar shall be kept in the
vehicle at all times the vehicle is operated on the public roads
and highways in this state.

Notwithstanding section 4503.21 of the Revised Code, the
owner of a historical motor vehicle that was manufactured for
military purposes and that is registered under this section may
display the assigned registration number of the vehicle by
painting the number on the front and rear of the vehicle. The
number shall be painted, in accordance with the size and style
specifications established for numerals and letters shown on
license plates in section 4503.22 of the Revised Code, in a
color that contrasts clearly with the color of the vehicle, and
shall be legible and visible at all times. Upon application for
registration under this section and payment of the license fee
prescribed in division (B) of this section, the owner of such a
historical motor vehicle shall be issued a historical vehicle
license ~~plates~~ plate. The registration certificate and ~~at least~~
~~one such~~ the license plate shall be kept in the vehicle at all
times the vehicle is operated on the public roads and highways
in this state. If ownership of such a vehicle is transferred,
the transferor shall surrender the historical vehicle license
~~plates~~ plate or transfer ~~them~~ it to another historical motor

vehicle the transferor owns, and remove or obliterate the 80
registration numbers painted on the vehicle. 81

(E) Historical vehicle and model year license plates are 82
valid without renewal as long as the vehicle for which they were 83
issued or procured is in existence. ~~Historical~~ A historical 84
~~vehicle plates are~~ plate is issued for the owner's use only for 85
such vehicle unless later transferred to another historical 86
motor vehicle owned by that person. In order to effect such a 87
transfer, the owner of the historical motor vehicle that 88
originally displayed the historical vehicle ~~plates~~ plate shall 89
comply with division (C) of this section. In the event of a 90
transfer of title, the transferor shall surrender the historical 91
vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate or transfer ~~them~~ it to another 92
historical motor vehicle owned by the transferor, but a model 93
year license plate or plates may be retained by the transferor. 94
The registrar may revoke license plates issued under this 95
section, for cause shown and after hearing, for failure of the 96
applicant to comply with this section. Upon revocation, a 97
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate shall be surrendered; a 98
model year license plate or plates may be retained, but the 99
plate or plates are no longer ~~are~~ valid for display on the 100
vehicle. 101

(F) The owner of a historical motor vehicle bearing a 102
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate may replace ~~them~~ it with 103
a model year license ~~plates~~ plate by surrendering the historical 104
vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate and motor vehicle certificate of 105
registration to the registrar. The owner, at the time of 106
registration, shall execute an affidavit setting forth that the 107
model year ~~plates are~~ plate is a legible and serviceable license 108
~~plates~~ plate that originally ~~were~~ was issued by this state. Such 109
an owner is required to pay the license fee prescribed by 110

division (B) of this section, but the owner is not required to 111
have the historical motor vehicle reinspected under division (C) 112
of this section. 113

A person who owns a historical motor vehicle bearing a 114
model year license ~~plates~~plate may replace ~~them~~it with a 115
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~plate by surrendering the 116
motor vehicle certificate of registration and applying for 117
issuance of a historical vehicle license ~~plates~~plate. Such a 118
person is required to pay the license fee prescribed by division 119
(B) of this section, but the person is not required to have the 120
historical motor vehicle reinspected under division (C) of this 121
section. 122

Sec. 4503.19. (A) Upon the filing of an application for 123
registration and the payment of the tax for registration, the 124
registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar shall 125
determine whether the owner previously has been issued a license 126
~~plates~~plate for the motor vehicle described in the application. 127
If no license ~~plates~~plate previously ~~have~~has been issued to 128
the owner for that motor vehicle, the registrar or deputy 129
registrar shall assign to the motor vehicle a distinctive number 130
and issue and deliver to the owner in the manner that the 131
registrar may select a certificate of registration, in the form 132
that the registrar shall prescribe, and, ~~except as otherwise~~ 133
~~provided in this section, two~~ a license ~~plates~~, ~~duplicates of~~ 134
~~each other,~~plate and a validation sticker, or a validation 135
sticker alone, to be attached to the ~~number plates~~license plate 136
as provided in section 4503.191 of the Revised Code. The 137
registrar or deputy registrar also shall charge the owner any 138
fees required under division (C) of section 4503.10 of the 139
Revised Code. ~~Trailers, manufactured homes, mobile homes,~~ 140
~~semitrailers, the manufacturer thereof, the dealer, or in~~ 141

~~transit companies therein, shall be issued one license plate— 142
only and one validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone,— 143
and the— 144~~

The license plate and validation sticker shall be 145
displayed ~~only~~ on the rear of ~~such vehicles. A the vehicle.~~ 146
However, a commercial tractor ~~that does not receive an— 147~~
~~apportioned license plate under the international registration— 148~~
~~plan shall be issued two display the license plates plate and 149~~
~~one validation sticker, and the validation sticker shall be— 150~~
~~displayed on the front of the commercial tractor. An apportioned— 151~~
~~vehicle receiving an apportioned license plate under the— 152~~
~~international registration plan shall be issued one license— 153~~
~~plate only and one validation sticker, or a validation sticker— 154~~
~~alone; the license plate shall be displayed only on the front of— 155~~
~~a semitractor and on the rear of all other vehicles. School 156~~
buses shall not be issued a license plates plate but shall bear 157
identifying numbers in the manner prescribed by section 4511.764 158
of the Revised Code. The certificate of registration and license 159
~~plates plate and validation stickers stickers sticker, or validation 160~~
~~stickers sticker alone, shall be issued and delivered to the 161~~
owner in person or by mail. Chauffeured limousines shall be 162
issued a license plates plate, a validation sticker, and a 163
livery sticker as provided in section 4503.24 of the Revised 164
Code. 165

In the event of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of 166
any certificate of registration, or of any license ~~plates plate~~ 167
or validation ~~stickers sticker~~, or if the owner chooses to 168
replace the license ~~plates plate~~ previously issued for a motor 169
vehicle, or if the registration certificate and license ~~plates— 170~~
plate have been impounded as provided by division (B) (1) of 171
section 4507.02 and section 4507.16 of the Revised Code, the 172

owner of a motor vehicle, or manufacturer or dealer, may obtain 173
from the registrar, or from a deputy registrar if authorized by 174
the registrar, a duplicate thereof or a new license plates-plate 175
bearing a different number, if the registrar considers it 176
advisable, upon filing an application prescribed by the 177
registrar, and upon paying a fee of one dollar for such 178
certificate of registration, which one dollar fee shall be 179
deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the state 180
bureau of motor vehicles fund created in section 4501.25 of the 181
Revised Code. 182

~~Commencing with each request made on or after October 1,~~ 183
~~2009, or in conjunction with replacement license plates issued~~ 184
~~for renewal registrations expiring on or after October 1, 2009,~~ 185
~~a~~ The fee of seven dollars and fifty cents for each set of two 186
~~license plates or for each single license plate or validation~~ 187
sticker is six dollars and fifty cents for each single license 188
~~plate or validation sticker shall be charged and collected, of~~ 189
~~which the~~ The registrar shall deposit five dollars and fifty 190
cents of each ~~seven dollar and fifty cent fee or each six dollar~~ 191
and fifty cent fee into the state treasury to the credit of the 192
state highway safety fund created in section 4501.06 of the 193
Revised Code and the remaining portion of each such fee into the 194
state treasury to the credit of the state bureau of motor 195
vehicles fund created in section 4501.25 of the Revised Code. In 196
addition, each applicant for a replacement certificate of 197
registration, license plate, or validation sticker shall pay the 198
fees provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 4503.10 of the 199
Revised Code and any applicable fee under section 4503.192 of 200
the Revised Code. 201

Additionally, the registrar and each deputy registrar who 202
either issues a license plates-plate and a validation sticker 203

for use on any vehicle other than a commercial tractor, 204
semitrailer, or apportioned vehicle, or who issues a validation 205
sticker alone for use on such a vehicle and the owner has 206
changed the owner's county of residence since the owner last was 207
issued county identification stickers, also shall issue and 208
deliver to the owner ~~either one or two~~ a county identification 209
~~stickers, as appropriate sticker,~~ which shall be attached to the 210
license ~~plates~~ plate in a manner prescribed by the director of 211
public safety. The county identification ~~stickers~~ sticker shall 212
identify prominently by name or number the county in which the 213
owner of the vehicle resides at the time of registration. 214

(B) A certificate of registration issued under this 215
section shall have a portion that contains all the information 216
contained in the main portion of the certificate except for the 217
address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. Except 218
as provided in this division, whenever a reference is made in 219
the Revised Code to a motor vehicle certificate of registration 220
that is issued under this section, the reference shall be deemed 221
to refer to either the main portion of the certificate or the 222
portion containing all information in the main portion except 223
the address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. If 224
a reference is made in the Revised Code to the seizure or 225
surrender of a motor vehicle certificate of registration that is 226
issued under this section, the reference shall be deemed to 227
refer to both the main portion of the certificate and the 228
portion containing all information in the main portion except 229
the address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. 230

(C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 231
misdemeanor. 232

Sec. 4503.193. The display of a single current license 233

plate and validation sticker on the rear of a motor vehicle 234
sufficiently indicates that the vehicle is registered in this 235
state. Any reference in the Revised Code to license plates, a 236
set of license plates, registration plates, or validation 237
stickers is deemed to be a reference to the single license plate 238
and validation sticker required by section 4503.19 of the 239
Revised Code. 240

Sec. 4503.21. (A) No person who is the owner or operator 241
of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the 242
~~front and rear~~ of the motor vehicle the distinctive number and 243
registration mark, including any county identification sticker 244
and any validation sticker issued under sections 4503.19 and 245
4503.191 of the Revised Code, furnished by the director of 246
public safety, ~~except that a manufacturer of motor vehicles or~~ 247
~~dealer therein, the holder of an in transit permit, and the~~ 248
~~owner or operator of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle,~~ 249
~~manufactured home, mobile home, trailer, or semitrailer shall~~ 250
~~display on the rear only. A motor vehicle that is issued two~~ 251
~~license plates shall display the validation sticker only on the~~ 252
~~rear license plate, except that a commercial tractor that does~~ 253
~~not receive an apportioned license plate under the international~~ 254
~~registration plan shall display the license plate and validation~~ 255
sticker on the front of the commercial tractor. ~~An apportioned~~ 256
~~vehicle receiving an apportioned license plate under the~~ 257
~~international registration plan shall display the license plate~~ 258
~~only on the front of a commercial tractor and on the rear of all~~ 259
~~other vehicles. All The license plates plate shall be securely~~ 260
fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any 261
material that obstructs ~~their~~ its visibility. 262

No person to whom a temporary license placard or 263
windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor 264

vehicle under section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, and no 265
operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the 266
temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the 267
vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface 268
of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker 269
in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No 270
temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered 271
by any material that obstructs its visibility. 272

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 273
misdemeanor. 274

Sec. 4503.23. No motor vehicle designed to carry 275
passengers, owned or leased by the state, or any of its 276
departments, bureaus, commissions, or institutions supported in 277
whole or in part by funds provided by the state, shall be 278
operated or driven by any person unless it has displayed, in a 279
prominent position on ~~both the front and rear~~ of the vehicle, 280
~~identification plates which a license plate that~~ shall be the 281
same size, shape, and treated for increased visibility in the 282
same manner as those issued by the registrar of motor vehicles 283
for private vehicles. ~~Such identification plates~~ The license 284
plate shall be attached to the vehicle in the same manner as 285
provided by statute for the illumination and attachment of a 286
~~license plates~~ plate on private vehicles. The registrar shall 287
designate the colors of the license ~~tags which~~ plate that shall 288
be used on state--owned cars; ~~such the~~ colors shall be other 289
than those used on privately owned motor vehicles, and shall 290
apply only to license plates used on state owned motor vehicles. 291
~~Said plates~~ The plate shall bear a special serial number, and 292
the words "Ohio State Car." 293

Sec. 4549.10. (A) No person shall operate or cause to be 294

operated upon a public road or highway a motor vehicle of a 295
manufacturer or dealer unless the vehicle carries and displays 296
~~two placards~~ a placard, except as provided in section 4503.21 of 297
the Revised Code, issued by the director of public safety that 298
~~bear~~ bears the registration number of its manufacturer or 299
dealer. 300

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 301
guilty of illegal operation of a manufacturer's or dealer's 302
motor vehicle, a minor misdemeanor. 303

Section 2. That existing sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 304
4503.21, 4503.23, and 4549.10 of the Revised Code are hereby 305
repealed. 306

Section 3. That section 4503.21 of the Revised Code be 307
amended to read as follows: 308

Sec. 4503.21. (A) No person who is the owner or operator 309
of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the 310
~~front and rear~~ of the motor vehicle the distinctive number and 311
registration mark, including any county identification sticker 312
and any validation sticker issued under sections 4503.19 and 313
4503.191 of the Revised Code, furnished by the director of 314
public safety, ~~except that a manufacturer of motor vehicles or~~ 315
~~dealer therein, the holder of an in transit permit, and the~~ 316
~~owner or operator of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle or moped,~~ 317
~~motor driven cycle or motor scooter, cab enclosed motorcycle,~~ 318
~~manufactured home, mobile home, trailer, or semitrailer shall~~ 319
~~display on the rear only. A motor vehicle that is issued two~~ 320
~~license plates shall display the validation sticker only on the~~ 321
~~rear license plate,~~ except that a commercial tractor that does 322
not receive an apportioned license plate under the international 323
registration plan shall display the validation sticker on the 324

front of the commercial tractor. ~~An apportioned vehicle~~ 325
~~receiving an apportioned license plate under the international~~ 326
~~registration plan shall display the license plate only on the~~ 327
~~front of a commercial tractor and on the rear of all other~~ 328
~~vehicles. All~~ The license plates ~~plate~~ shall be securely 329
fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any 330
material that obstructs ~~their~~ its visibility. 331

No person to whom a temporary license placard or 332
windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor 333
vehicle under section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, and no 334
operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the 335
temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the 336
vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface 337
of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker 338
in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No 339
temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered 340
by any material that obstructs its visibility. 341

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 342
misdemeanor. 343

Section 4. That the existing version of section 4503.21 of 344
the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 345
2017, is hereby repealed. 346

Section 5. Sections 3 and 4 of this act shall take effect 347
January 1, 2017. 348