

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

S. B. No. 176

Senator Uecker

A BILL

To amend sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 and to enact 1
section 4503.771 of the Revised Code to modify 2
the requirements related to nonstandard license 3
plates. 4

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

Section 1. That sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 be amended 5
and section 4503.771 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 6
follows: 7

Sec. 4503.77. (A) As used in this section: 8

(1) "Nonstandard license plate" means all of the 9
following: 10

(a) A license plate issued under sections 4503.52, 11
4503.55, 4503.56, 4503.57, 4503.70, 4503.71, 4503.72, and 12
4503.75 of the Revised Code; 13

(b) A license plate issued under a program that is 14
reestablished under division (D) of this section and that meets 15
the requirements contained in division (B) of section 4503.78 of 16
the Revised Code; 17

(c) Except as may otherwise be specifically provided by 18

law, any license plate created after August 21, 1997. 19

(2) For purposes of license plates issued under sections 20
4503.503 and 4503.504 of the Revised Code, "sponsor" includes 21
the Ohio agriculture license plate scholarship fund board 22
created in section 901.90 of the Revised Code and the director 23
of agriculture. 24

(B) (1) If, during any calendar year ~~commencing with 1998,~~ 25
the total number of motor vehicle registrations involving a 26
particular type of nonstandard license plate is less than ~~five-~~ 27
~~hundred~~twenty-five, including both new registrations and 28
registration renewals, the registrar of motor vehicles, on or 29
after the first day of January, but not later than the fifteenth 30
day of January of the following year, shall send a written 31
notice to the sponsor of that type of nonstandard license plate, 32
if a sponsor exists, informing the sponsor of this fact. The 33
registrar also shall inform the sponsor that if, during the 34
calendar year in which the written notice is sent, the total 35
number of motor vehicle registrations involving the sponsor's 36
nonstandard license plate again is less than ~~five-hundred~~twenty- 37
five, the program involving that type of nonstandard license 38
plate will be terminated on the thirty-first day of December of 39
the calendar year in which the written notice is sent and, 40
except as provided in division (C) of this section, no motor 41
vehicle registration application involving either the actual 42
issuance of that type of nonstandard license plate or the 43
registration renewal of a motor vehicle displaying that type of 44
nonstandard license plate will be accepted by the registrar or a 45
deputy registrar beginning the first day of January of the next 46
calendar year. The registrar also shall inform the sponsor that 47
if the program involving the sponsor's nonstandard license plate 48
is terminated under this section, it may be reestablished 49

pursuant to division (D) of this section. 50

(2) If, during any calendar year ~~commencing with 1998~~, the 51
total number of motor vehicle registrations involving a 52
particular type of nonstandard license plate is less than ~~five-~~ 53
~~hundred~~twenty-five, including both new registrations and 54
registration renewals, and no sponsor exists for that license 55
plate, the registrar shall issue a public notice on or after the 56
first day of January, but not later than the fifteenth day of 57
January of the following year, stating that fact. The notice 58
also shall inform the public that if, during the calendar year 59
in which the registrar issues the public notice, the total 60
number of motor vehicle registrations for that type of 61
nonstandard license plate, including both new registrations and 62
registration renewals, again is less than ~~five hundred~~twenty- 63
five, the program involving that type of nonstandard license 64
plate will be terminated on the thirty-first day of December of 65
the calendar year in which the registrar issues the public 66
notice and, except as provided in division (C) of this section, 67
no motor vehicle registration application involving either the 68
actual issuance of that type of nonstandard license plate or the 69
registration renewal of a motor vehicle displaying that type of 70
nonstandard license plate will be accepted by the registrar or a 71
deputy registrar beginning on the first day of January of the 72
next calendar year. 73

(C) If the program involving a type of nonstandard license 74
plate is terminated under division (B) of this section, the 75
registration of any motor vehicle displaying that type of 76
nonstandard license plate at the time of termination may be 77
renewed so long as the nonstandard license plates remain 78
serviceable. If the nonstandard license plates of such a motor 79
vehicle become unfit for service, the owner of the motor vehicle 80

may apply for the issuance of nonstandard license plates of that 81
same type, but the registrar or deputy registrar shall issue 82
such nonstandard license plates only if at the time of 83
application the stock of the bureau contains license plates of 84
that type of nonstandard license plate. If, at the time of such 85
application, the stock of the bureau does not contain license 86
plates of that type of nonstandard license plate, the registrar 87
or deputy registrar shall inform the owner of that fact, and the 88
application shall be refused. 89

If the program involving a type of nonstandard license 90
plate is terminated under division (B) of this section and the 91
registration of motor vehicles displaying such license plates 92
continues as permitted by this division, the registrar, for as 93
long as such registrations continue to be issued, shall continue 94
to collect and distribute any contribution that was required to 95
be collected and distributed prior to the termination of that 96
program. 97

(D) If the program involving a nonstandard license plate 98
is terminated under division (B) (1) of this section, the sponsor 99
of that license plate may apply to the registrar for the 100
reestablishment of the program. If the program involving that 101
nonstandard license plate is reestablished, the reestablishment 102
is subject to division (B) of section 4503.78 of the Revised 103
Code. 104

Sec. 4503.771. (A) The sponsor of a nonstandard license 105
plate, as defined in section 4503.77 of the Revised Code, shall 106
verify the contact information for that sponsor by the first day 107
of December of each year on a form established by the registrar 108
of motor vehicles. If the sponsor fails to verify such contact 109
information by the thirty-first day of December of any year, the 110

registrar, beginning the first day of January of the following 111
year, shall transmit the contribution for each registration 112
involving that nonstandard license plate to the treasurer of 113
state for deposit into the general revenue fund, instead of for 114
deposit in the appropriate license plate contribution fund 115
created in section 4501.21 of the Revised Code. The registrar 116
also immediately shall send a notice to the sponsor that no 117
additional funds will be deposited into the appropriate license 118
plate contribution fund until the contact information form is 119
received by the registrar. Upon receiving the contact 120
information form, the registrar shall resume transmitting 121
contributions received for that license plate to the treasurer 122
of state for deposit into the appropriate license plate 123
contribution fund. 124

(B) If the sponsor of a nonstandard license plate ceases 125
to exist, the registrar shall deposit contributions for the 126
associated license plate into the general revenue fund. 127

Sec. 4503.78. (A) Except as may otherwise be specifically 128
provided by law, ~~after the effective date of this section,~~ the 129
registrar of motor vehicles ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ required to 130
implement any legislation that creates a license plate and 131
provides for its issuance until the registrar receives written 132
statements from not less than ~~five~~ one hundred fifty persons, 133
indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain such license 134
plates for their motor vehicles. The registrar may require such 135
statements to be made on a form the registrar provides. 136

(B) If a program involving a nonstandard license plate is 137
terminated under division (B)(1) of section 4503.77 of the 138
Revised Code, the sponsor of that license plate may apply to the 139
registrar for the reestablishment of that program, as permitted 140

by division (D) of that section. The registrar shall not 141
reestablish the program involving that nonstandard license plate 142
until the registrar receives written statements from not less 143
than ~~five hundred~~ twenty-five persons, indicating that they 144
intend to apply for and obtain such license plates for their 145
motor vehicles. The registrar may require such statements to be 146
made on a form approved by the registrar. 147

In determining whether ~~five hundred~~ twenty-five persons 148
have so indicated their intentions, the registrar shall include 149
in the total the number of motor vehicles that continue to 150
display the nonstandard license plate of the terminated program, 151
as permitted by division (C) of section 4503.77 of the Revised 152
Code. 153

Section 2. That existing sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 of 154
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 155