

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

S. B. No. 179

**Senators Uecker, Hottinger
Cosponsor: Senator Hoagland**

A BILL

To enact new sections 4503.19, 4503.21, 4503.23, 1
and 4549.10 and to repeal sections 4503.19, 2
4503.193, 4503.21, 4503.23, and 4549.10 of the 3
Revised Code and to repeal Section 812.40 of Am. 4
Sub. H.B. 62 of the 133rd General Assembly to 5
retain and continue current law requiring the 6
display of two license plates for most motor 7
vehicles. 8

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

Section 1. That new sections 4503.19, 4503.21, 4503.23, 9
and 4549.10 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 10

Sec. 4503.19. (A) (1) Upon the filing of an application for 11
registration and the payment of the tax for registration, the 12
registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar shall 13
determine whether the owner previously has been issued license 14
plates for the motor vehicle described in the application. If no 15
license plates previously have been issued to the owner for that 16
motor vehicle, the registrar or deputy registrar shall assign to 17
the motor vehicle a distinctive number and issue and deliver to 18

the owner in the manner that the registrar may select a 19
certificate of registration, in the form that the registrar 20
shall prescribe. The registrar or deputy registrar also shall 21
charge the owner any fees required under division (C) of section 22
4503.10 of the Revised Code. 23

(2) The registrar or deputy registrar then shall deliver 24
the following: 25

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 26
division (A) (2) of section 4503.191 of the Revised Code, two 27
license plates, duplicates of each other, and a validation 28
sticker, or a validation sticker alone, to be attached to the 29
number plates as provided in section 4503.191 of the Revised 30
Code. 31

(b) For trailers, manufactured homes, mobile homes, and 32
semitrailers, one license plate only and one validation sticker, 33
or a validation sticker alone. The manufacturer thereof, the 34
dealer, or in transit companies therein, shall display the 35
license plate and validation sticker only on the rear of such 36
vehicles. 37

(c) For a commercial tractor that does not receive an 38
apportioned license plate under the international registration 39
plan, two license plates and one validation sticker. The 40
validation sticker shall be displayed on the front of the 41
commercial tractor. 42

(d) For an apportioned vehicle receiving an apportioned 43
license plate under the international registration plan, one 44
license plate only and one validation sticker, or a validation 45
sticker alone. The license plate shall be displayed only on the 46
front of a semitractor and on the rear of all other vehicles. 47

(e) For a chauffeured limousine, two license plates and validation stickers, or validation stickers alone, and a livery sticker as provided in section 4503.24 of the Revised Code. 48
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(3) The registrar or deputy registrar shall not issue license plates for a school bus. A school bus shall bear identifying numbers in the manner prescribed by section 4511.764 of the Revised Code. 51
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(4) The certificate of registration and license plates and validation stickers, or validation stickers alone, shall be issued and delivered to the owner in person or by mail. 55
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(5) In the event of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of any certificate of registration, or of any license plates or validation stickers, or if the owner chooses to replace license plates previously issued for a motor vehicle, or if the registration certificate and license plates have been impounded as provided by division (B)(1) of section 4507.02 and section 4507.16 of the Revised Code, the owner of a motor vehicle, or manufacturer or dealer, may obtain from the registrar, or from a deputy registrar if authorized by the registrar, a duplicate thereof or new license plates bearing a different number, if the registrar considers it advisable, upon filing an application prescribed by the registrar, and upon paying a fee of one dollar for such certificate of registration. The registrar shall deposit the one dollar fee into the state treasury to the credit of the public safety - highway purposes fund created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code. The registrar or deputy registrar shall charge a fee of seven dollars and fifty cents for each set of two license plates or six dollars and fifty cents for each single license plate or validation sticker issued, which the registrar shall deposit into the state treasury to the credit of 58
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the public safety - highway purposes fund. 78

(6) Each applicant for a replacement certificate of 79
registration, license plate, or validation sticker also shall 80
pay the fees provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 81
4503.10 of the Revised Code and any applicable fee under section 82
4503.192 of the Revised Code. 83

Additionally, the registrar and each deputy registrar who 84
either issues license plates and a validation sticker for use on 85
any vehicle other than a commercial tractor, semitrailer, or 86
apportioned vehicle, or who issues a validation sticker alone 87
for use on such a vehicle and the owner has changed the owner's 88
county of residence since the owner last was issued county 89
identification stickers, also shall issue and deliver to the 90
owner either one or two county identification stickers, as 91
appropriate, which shall be attached to the license plates in a 92
manner prescribed by the director of public safety. The county 93
identification stickers shall identify prominently by name the 94
county in which the owner of the vehicle resides at the time of 95
registration, except that the county identification sticker for 96
a nonstandard license plate, as defined in section 4503.77 of 97
the Revised Code, shall identify prominently by name or number 98
the county in which the owner of the vehicle resides at the time 99
of registration. 100

(B) A certificate of registration issued under this 101
section shall have a portion that contains all the information 102
contained in the main portion of the certificate except for the 103
address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. Except 104
as provided in this division, whenever a reference is made in 105
the Revised Code to a motor vehicle certificate of registration 106
that is issued under this section, the reference shall be deemed 107

to refer to either the main portion of the certificate or the 108
portion containing all information in the main portion except 109
the address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. If 110
a reference is made in the Revised Code to the seizure or 111
surrender of a motor vehicle certificate of registration that is 112
issued under this section, the reference shall be deemed to 113
refer to both the main portion of the certificate and the 114
portion containing all information in the main portion except 115
the address of the person to whom the certificate is issued. 116

(C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 117
misdemeanor. 118

Sec. 4503.21. (A) (1) No person who is the owner or 119
operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view 120
on the front and rear of the motor vehicle a license plate that 121
bears the distinctive number and registration mark assigned to 122
the motor vehicle by the director of public safety, including 123
any county identification sticker and any validation sticker 124
issued under sections 4503.19 and 4503.191 of the Revised Code, 125
except as follows: 126

(a) A manufacturer of motor vehicles or dealer therein, 127
the holder of an in transit permit, and the owner or operator of 128
a motorcycle, motorized bicycle or moped, motor-driven cycle or 129
motor scooter, auticycle, cab-enclosed motorcycle, manufactured 130
home, mobile home, trailer, or semitrailer shall display a 131
license plate on the rear only. 132

(b) A motor vehicle that is issued two license plates 133
shall display the validation sticker only on the rear license 134
plate, except that a commercial tractor that does not receive an 135
apportioned license plate under the international registration 136
plan shall display the validation sticker on the front of the 137

commercial tractor. 138

(c) An apportioned vehicle receiving an apportioned 139
license plate under the international registration plan shall 140
display the license plate only on the front of a commercial 141
tractor and on the rear of all other vehicles. 142

(2) All license plates shall be securely fastened so as 143
not to swing, and shall not be covered by any material that 144
obstructs their visibility. 145

(3) No person to whom a temporary license placard or 146
windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor 147
vehicle under section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, and no 148
operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the 149
temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the 150
vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface 151
of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker 152
in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No 153
temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered 154
by any material that obstructs its visibility. 155

(B) A law enforcement officer shall only issue a ticket, 156
citation, or summons, or cause the arrest or commence a 157
prosecution, for the failure to display a license plate in plain 158
view on the front of a parked motor vehicle if the officer first 159
determines that another offense has occurred and either places 160
the operator or vehicle owner under arrest or issues a ticket, 161
citation, or summons to the operator or vehicle owner for the 162
other offense. 163

(C) (1) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this 164
section, whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty 165
of a minor misdemeanor. 166

(2) Whoever violates division (A) of this section by 167
failing to display a license plate in plain view on the front of 168
a motor vehicle as required under division (A) of this section 169
while the motor vehicle is otherwise legally parked is guilty of 170
a minor misdemeanor and may be fined not more than one hundred 171
dollars. 172

A person who is subject to the penalty prescribed in 173
division (C) (2) of this section is not subject to the charging 174
of points under section 4510.036 of the Revised Code. 175

(3) The offense established under division (A) of this 176
section is a strict liability offense and section 2901.20 of the 177
Revised Code does not apply. The designation of this offense as 178
a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that 179
any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of 180
culpability, is not a strict liability offense. 181

Sec. 4503.23. No motor vehicle designed to carry 182
passengers, owned or leased by the state, or any of its 183
departments, bureaus, commissions, or institutions supported in 184
whole or in part by funds provided by the state, shall be 185
operated or driven by any person unless it has displayed, in a 186
prominent position on both the front and rear of the vehicle, 187
identification plates which shall be the same size, shape, and 188
treated for increased visibility in the same manner as those 189
issued by the registrar of motor vehicles for private vehicles. 190
Such identification plates shall be attached to the vehicle in 191
the same manner as provided by statute for the illumination and 192
attachment of license plates on private vehicles. The registrar 193
shall designate the colors of the license tags which shall be 194
used on state owned cars; such colors shall be other than those 195
used on privately owned motor vehicles, and shall apply only to 196

license plates used on state owned motor vehicles. Said plates 197
shall bear a special serial number, and the words "Ohio State 198
Car." 199

Sec. 4549.10. (A) No person shall operate or cause to be 200
operated upon a public road or highway a motor vehicle of a 201
manufacturer or dealer unless the vehicle carries and displays 202
two placards, except as provided in section 4503.21 of the 203
Revised Code, issued by the director of public safety that bear 204
the registration number of its manufacturer or dealer. 205

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 206
guilty of illegal operation of a manufacturer's or dealer's 207
motor vehicle, a minor misdemeanor. 208

Section 2. That sections 4503.19, 4503.193, 4503.21, 209
4503.23, and 4549.10 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 210

Section 3. That Section 812.40 of Am. Sub. H.B. 62 of the 211
133rd General Assembly is hereby repealed. 212