

As Introduced

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

S. B. No. 217

Senator Schaffer

A BILL

To enact sections 2950.18 and 4503.237 of the
Revised Code to create a SORN Law license plate
and to require all Tier II and Tier III sex
offender and child-victim offenders to display
such license plates when operating a vehicle in
this state.

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

Section 1. That sections 2950.18 and 4503.237 of the
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 2950.18. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Registered offender" means an offender or delinquent
child who is classified as a tier II sex offender/child-victim
offender or a tier III sex offender/child-victim offender.

(2) "SORN law license plates" means the sex offender
registration and notification law license plates as described in
section 4503.237 of the Revised Code.

(3) "SORN law decal" means the sex offender registration
and notification law decal as described in section 4503.237 of
the Revised Code.

(4) "Vehicular travel" means operating a vehicle on the 19
public roads or highways or on any public or private property 20
used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking. 21

(B) With regard to any registered offender, the sentencing 22
court shall issue an order prohibiting the offender from 23
vehicular travel unless the vehicle the registered offender is 24
operating displays SORN law license plates or a SORN law decal. 25
The sentencing court shall issue the order regardless of whether 26
the registered offender committed the offense that resulted in 27
that classification prior to, on, or after the effective date of 28
this section. The sentencing court shall issue the order at the 29
time of sentencing. However, if the registered offender was 30
sentenced prior to the effective date of this section, the 31
sentencing court shall issue the order as soon as is practicable 32
after that date. 33

(C) The sentencing court shall issue the order as required 34
under this section even if an order has previously been issued 35
to the registered offender under this section for a separate 36
offense. If the registered offender has received more than one 37
order under this section, the period of time during which the 38
orders remain in effect shall be separately calculated for each 39
offense and shall be complied with independently. An order 40
issued under this section remains in effect for the applicable 41
period of time the registered offender is required to register 42
under division (B) of section 2950.07 of the Revised Code with 43
regard to the offense for which the order was issued. 44

(D) Upon the issuance of an order under this section, the 45
sentencing court shall send a copy of the order to the registrar 46
of motor vehicles. 47

Sec. 4503.237. (A) Except as otherwise provided in 48

division (B) of this section, no person who is required to 49
obtain sex offender registration and notification law (SORN law) 50
license plates pursuant to an order issued under section 2950.18 51
of the Revised Code shall operate a vehicle upon the public 52
roads or highways or upon any public or private property used by 53
the public for purposes of vehicular travel without displaying 54
such plates during the period the order is in effect. 55

(B) (1) If a person is required to obtain SORN law license 56
plates pursuant to an order issued under section 2950.18 of the 57
Revised Code, the person may operate a motor vehicle that is 58
owned by the person's employer if the person is required to 59
operate that motor vehicle in the course and scope of the 60
person's employment. Such a person may operate that vehicle 61
without displaying on that vehicle SORN law license plates 62
issued under this section if the employer has been notified that 63
the person is subject to the order and if the person has proof 64
of the employer's notification in the person's possession while 65
operating the employer's vehicle for normal business duties. A 66
motor vehicle owned by a business that is partly or entirely 67
owned or controlled by the person is not a motor vehicle owned 68
by an employer for purposes of this division. 69

(2) If a person is required to obtain SORN law license 70
plates pursuant to an order issued under section 2950.18 of the 71
Revised Code and if the motor vehicle to be operated by the 72
person is registered in a state other than this state, the 73
person may operate that vehicle without displaying SORN law 74
license plates only if the person displays on that vehicle a 75
SORN law decal, as prescribed by the registrar of motor 76
vehicles. The SORN law decal shall state that the person is 77
subject to the order and describe the nature and basis of the 78
order. The person shall display the SORN law decal on the bottom 79

left corner of the back window of the vehicle or, if there is no 80
back window, on the bottom left corner of the windshield of the 81
vehicle. 82

(3) If a person is required to obtain SORN law license 83
plates pursuant to an order issued under section 2950.18 of the 84
Revised Code and a temporary license placard or windshield 85
sticker has been issued for the vehicle that will be operated by 86
the person under section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, the 87
person may operate the vehicle until the person is provided the 88
SORN law license plates or until the expiration of the forty- 89
five-day period in section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, 90
whichever is earlier. 91

(C) (1) Upon the presentation of an order issued under 92
section 2950.18 of the Revised Code by the person subject to the 93
order, the registrar shall issue SORN law license plates or a 94
SORN law decal to the person, as applicable. The SORN law 95
license plates or the SORN law decal may be issued for any 96
vehicle registered in the name of the person and for any vehicle 97
that the person intends to operate. If the SORN law license 98
plates or the SORN law decal are issued for a vehicle not 99
registered in the name of the person who is subject to the 100
order, the registered owner of the vehicle shall consent to the 101
use of the vehicle by the person and the issuance of the SORN 102
law license plates or the SORN law decal. 103

(2) SORN law license plates shall bear a distinctive 104
fluorescent green background and carry a special serial number 105
that may be readily identified by law enforcement officers. The 106
registrar shall designate the distinctive fluorescent green 107
color and serial number to be used on SORN law license plates, 108
which shall remain the same from year to year and shall not be 109

displayed on any other motor vehicles. 110

The registrar shall adopt rules providing for the 111
decentralization of the issuance of the SORN law license plates 112
and the SORN law decals under this section. The rules shall 113
provide for the issuance of the SORN law license plates and the 114
SORN law decals by at least one deputy registrar in each county. 115

(D) No person operating a motor vehicle displaying SORN 116
law license plates as described in this section shall disguise 117
or obscure the color of the plates. 118

(E) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 119
misdemeanor. 120

(F) The offenses established under this section are strict 121
liability offenses and section 2901.20 of the Revised Code does 122
not apply. The designation of these offenses as strict liability 123
offenses shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, 124
for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a 125
strict liability offense. 126