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Veterans Affairs Committee**

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**Sub. H. B. No. 293**

**Representative Goodwin**

**Cosponsors: Representatives McGregor, J., Wachtmann, Yuko, Evans,  
Reinhard, Latta, Huffman, Peterson, Chandler, Dodd, Seitz, Stebelton, Fende,  
Sayre, Hughes, Aslanides, Combs, Domenick, Otterman**

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 and to enact 1  
sections 901.90 and 4503.503 of the Revised Code 2  
to create "Ohio Agriculture" license plates and to 3  
create the Ohio Agriculture License Plate 4  
Scholarship Program, and to establish a threshold 5  
of 500 annual special license plate registrations 6  
for those license plates whose contributions are 7  
required to be used for educational or scholarship 8  
purposes. 9

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

**Section 1.** That sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 be amended and 10  
sections 901.90 and 4503.503 of the Revised Code be enacted to 11  
read as follows: 12

**Sec. 901.90.** (A) There is hereby created in the state 13  
treasury the Ohio agriculture license plate scholarship fund 14  
consisting of the contributions the registrar of motor vehicles 15  
receives pursuant to section 4503.503 of the Revised Code. Money 16

shall be expended from the fund only as provided in division (C) 17  
of this section. 18

(B)(1) There is hereby created the Ohio agriculture license 19  
plate scholarship fund board, consisting of the director of 20  
agriculture or the director's designee and one representative 21  
appointed by each of the following organizations: 22

(a) The Ohio agriculture council; 23

(b) The Ohio corn growers association; 24

(c) The Ohio farm bureau federation; 25

(d) The Ohio soy association; 26

(e) The Ohio state university college of food, agricultural, 27  
and environmental sciences; 28

(f) The Ohio young farmers association. 29

(2) All original appointments to the board shall be made not 30  
later than ninety days after the effective date of this section, 31  
and all vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the 32  
original appointment. Members of the board shall serve without 33  
compensation but shall be reimbursed for the actual expenses they 34  
incur in performing their duties. The director of agriculture or 35  
the director's designee shall serve as chairperson. The board 36  
shall adopt rules governing their meetings and proceedings. 37

(C) There is hereby established the Ohio agriculture license 38  
plate scholarship program to benefit students who attend an 39  
institution of higher learning located in this state and are 40  
enrolled in a program that is related to agricultural education. 41  
The board shall adopt rules governing all aspects of the program, 42  
including any additional eligibility requirements, the application 43  
process, scholarship amounts, and any requirements a student must 44  
meet in order to retain a scholarship. 45

All decisions of the board relating to the scholarship program, including the decision to award, renew, not renew, or revoke a scholarship, are final. 46  
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Sec. 4503.503. (A) The owner or lessee of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the registrar of motor vehicles may apply to the registrar for the registration of the vehicle and issuance of "Ohio agriculture" license plates. The application for "Ohio agriculture" license plates may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code. Upon receipt of the completed application and compliance with division (B) of this section, the registrar shall issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "Ohio agriculture" license plates with a validation sticker or a validation sticker alone when required by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code. 49  
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In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed thereon, "Ohio agriculture" license plates shall be inscribed with words and markings selected and designed by the Ohio farm bureau federation, in consultation with representatives of agricultural commodity organizations of this state. The registrar shall approve the final design. "Ohio agriculture" license plates shall bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. 62  
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(B) "Ohio agriculture" license plates and validation stickers shall be issued upon payment of the regular license tax as prescribed under section 4503.04 of the Revised Code, any applicable motor vehicle tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, any applicable fee prescribed by section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, a bureau of motor vehicles administrative fee of ten dollars, the contribution specified 70  
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under division (C) of this section, and compliance with all other 77  
applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. 78

(C) For each application for registration and registration 79  
renewal received under this section, the registrar shall collect a 80  
contribution of twenty dollars. The registrar shall transmit this 81  
contribution to the treasurer of state for deposit in the Ohio 82  
agriculture license plate scholarship fund created in section 83  
901.90 of the Revised Code. 84

(D) The registrar shall deposit the bureau administrative fee 85  
of ten dollars specified in division (B) of this section, the 86  
purpose of which is to compensate the bureau for the additional 87  
services required in the issuing of the applicant's "Ohio 88  
agriculture" license plates, into the state bureau of motor 89  
vehicles fund created in section 4501.25 of the Revised Code. 90

(E) Sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 of the Revised Code apply to 91  
"Ohio agriculture" license plates, except that the number "one 92  
thousand" specified in divisions (B)(1) and (2) of section 4503.77 93  
of the Revised Code and in divisions (A) and (B) of section 94  
4503.78 of the Revised Code is reduced to "five hundred" in each 95  
instance regarding "Ohio agriculture" license plates. 96

**Sec. 4503.77.** (A) As used in this section, ~~"nonstandard:~~ 97

(1) "Nonstandard license plate" means all of the following: 98

~~(1)~~(a) A license plate issued under sections 4503.52, 99  
4503.55, 4503.56, 4503.57, 4503.70, 4503.71, 4503.72, and 4503.75 100  
of the Revised Code; 101

~~(2)~~(b) A license plate issued under a program that is 102  
reestablished under division (D) of this section and that meets 103  
the requirements contained in division (B) of section 4503.78 of 104  
the Revised Code; 105

~~(3)~~(c) Except as may otherwise be specifically provided by 106

law, any license plate created after ~~the effective date of this~~ 107  
~~section~~ August 21, 1997. 108

(2) "Nonstandard educational license plate" means a 109  
nonstandard license plate issued to a motor vehicle registrant 110  
upon payment of a contribution that the registrar of motor 111  
vehicles deposits into the license plate contribution fund created 112  
in section 4501.21 of the Revised Code and that the sponsor of the 113  
license plate is required by that section to use for educational 114  
or scholarship purposes. 115

(B)(1) If, during any calendar year commencing with 1998, the 116  
total number of motor vehicle registrations involving a particular 117  
type of nonstandard license plate other than a nonstandard 118  
educational license plate is less than one thousand, including 119  
both new registrations and registration renewals, the registrar ~~of~~ 120  
~~motor vehicles~~, on or after the first day of January, but not 121  
later than the fifteenth day of January of the following year, 122  
shall send a written notice to the sponsor of that type of 123  
nonstandard license plate, if a sponsor exists, informing the 124  
sponsor of this fact. The registrar also shall inform the sponsor 125  
that if, during the calendar year in which the written notice is 126  
sent, the total number of motor vehicle registrations involving 127  
the sponsor's nonstandard license plate again is less than one 128  
thousand, the program involving that type of nonstandard license 129  
plate will be terminated on the thirty-first day of December of 130  
the calendar year in which the written notice is sent and, except 131  
as provided in division (C) of this section, no motor vehicle 132  
registration application involving either the actual issuance of 133  
that type of nonstandard license plate or the registration renewal 134  
of a motor vehicle displaying that type of nonstandard license 135  
plate will be accepted by the registrar or a deputy registrar 136  
beginning the first day of January of the next calendar year. The 137  
registrar also shall inform the sponsor that if the program 138

involving the sponsor's nonstandard license plate is terminated 139  
under this section, it may be reestablished pursuant to division 140  
(D) of this section. 141

(2) If, during any calendar year commencing with 1998, the 142  
total number of motor vehicle registrations involving a particular 143  
type of nonstandard license plate is less than one thousand, 144  
including both new registrations and registration renewals, and no 145  
sponsor exists for that license plate, the registrar shall issue a 146  
public notice on or after the first day of January, but not later 147  
than the fifteenth day of January of the following year, stating 148  
that fact. The notice also shall inform the public that if, during 149  
the calendar year in which the registrar issues the public notice, 150  
the total number of motor vehicle registrations for that type of 151  
nonstandard license plate, including both new registrations and 152  
registration renewals, again is less than one thousand, the 153  
program involving that type of nonstandard license plate will be 154  
terminated on the thirty-first day of December of the calendar 155  
year in which the registrar issues the public notice and, except 156  
as provided in division (C) of this section, no motor vehicle 157  
registration application involving either the actual issuance of 158  
that type of nonstandard license plate or the registration renewal 159  
of a motor vehicle displaying that type of nonstandard license 160  
plate will be accepted by the registrar or a deputy registrar 161  
beginning on the first day of January of the next calendar year. 162

(3) If, during any calendar year commencing with 2008, the 163  
total number of motor vehicle registrations involving a 164  
nonstandard educational license plate is less than five hundred, 165  
including both new registrations and registration renewals, the 166  
registrar, on or after the first day of January, but not later 167  
than the fifteenth day of January of the following year, shall 168  
send a written notice to the sponsor of that type of nonstandard 169  
license educational plate informing the sponsor of this fact. The 170

registrar also shall inform the sponsor that if, during the 171  
calendar year in which the written notice is sent, the total 172  
number of motor vehicle registrations involving the sponsor's 173  
nonstandard educational license plate again is less than five 174  
hundred, the program involving that type of nonstandard 175  
educational license plate will be terminated on the thirty-first 176  
day of December of the calendar year in which the written notice 177  
is sent and, except as provided in division (C) of this section, 178  
no motor vehicle registration application involving either the 179  
actual issuance of that type of nonstandard educational license 180  
plate or the registration renewal of a motor vehicle displaying 181  
that type of nonstandard educational license plate will be 182  
accepted by the registrar or a deputy registrar beginning the 183  
first day of January of the next calendar year. The registrar also 184  
shall inform the sponsor that if the program involving the 185  
sponsor's nonstandard educational license plate is terminated 186  
under this section, it may be reestablished pursuant to division 187  
(D) of this section. 188

(C) If the program involving a type of nonstandard license 189  
plate is terminated under division (B) of this section, the 190  
registration of any motor vehicle displaying that type of 191  
nonstandard license plate at the time of termination may be 192  
renewed so long as the nonstandard license plates remain 193  
serviceable. If the nonstandard license plates of such a motor 194  
vehicle become unfit for service, the owner of the motor vehicle 195  
may apply for the issuance of nonstandard license plates of that 196  
same type, but the registrar or deputy registrar shall issue such 197  
nonstandard license plates only if at the time of application the 198  
stock of the bureau contains license plates of that type of 199  
nonstandard license plate. If, at the time of such application, 200  
the stock of the bureau does not contain license plates of that 201  
type of nonstandard license plate, the registrar or deputy 202  
registrar shall inform the owner of that fact, and the application 203

shall be refused. 204

If the program involving a type of nonstandard license plate 205  
is terminated under division (B) of this section and the 206  
registration of motor vehicles displaying such license plates 207  
continues as permitted by this division, the registrar, for as 208  
long as such registrations continue to be issued, shall continue 209  
to collect and distribute any contribution that was required to be 210  
collected and distributed prior to the termination of that 211  
program. 212

(D) If the program involving a nonstandard license plate is 213  
terminated under division (B)(1) or (3) of this section, the 214  
sponsor of that license plate may apply to the registrar for the 215  
reestablishment of the program. If the program involving that 216  
nonstandard license plate is reestablished, the reestablishment is 217  
subject to division (B) of section 4503.78 of the Revised Code. 218

**Sec. 4503.78.** (A) Except as may otherwise be specifically 219  
provided by law, after the effective date of this section, the 220  
registrar of motor vehicles shall not be required to implement any 221  
legislation that creates a license plate and provides for its 222  
issuance until the registrar receives written statements from not 223  
less than one thousand persons, indicating that they intend to 224  
apply for and obtain such license plates for their motor vehicles. 225  
The registrar may require such statements to be made on a form the 226  
registrar provides. 227

(B) If a program involving a nonstandard license plate is 228  
terminated under division (B)(1) or (3) of section 4503.77 of the 229  
Revised Code, the sponsor of that license plate may apply to the 230  
registrar for the reestablishment of that program, as permitted by 231  
division (D) of that section. The registrar shall not reestablish 232  
the program involving that nonstandard license plate until the 233  
registrar receives written statements from not less than one 234



thousand persons, indicating that they intend to apply for and 235  
obtain such license plates for their motor vehicles. The registrar 236  
may require such statements to be made on a form approved by the 237  
registrar. 238

In determining whether one thousand persons have so indicated 239  
their intentions, the registrar shall include in the total the 240  
number of motor vehicles that continue to display the nonstandard 241  
license plate of the terminated program, as permitted by division 242  
(C) of section 4503.77 of the Revised Code. 243

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4503.77 and 4503.78 of the 244  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 245

**Section 3.** Notwithstanding division (B)(1) of section 4503.77 246  
of the Revised Code, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall not 247  
send the notice otherwise required by that section or terminate a 248  
program involving a nonstandard educational license plate unless 249  
the total number of motor vehicle registrations involving the 250  
nonstandard educational license plate during calendar year 2007 is 251  
less than five hundred. 252