

**As Introduced**

**129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2011-2012**

**H. B. No. 107**

**Representatives Damschroder, Slesnick**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Hall, McGregor, Derickson, Sears, Adams, J.,  
Stebelton, Okey, Blair, Schuring, Reece, Young, Boose, Huffman, Garland,  
Roegner, Mallory**

—

**A B I L L**

To amend sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 4503.21, 1  
4503.23, and 4549.10 and to enact section 4503.192 2  
of the Revised Code to require that motor vehicles 3  
carry only one license plate, to be displayed on 4  
the rear of the vehicle. 5

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

**Section 1.** That sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 4503.21, 4503.23, 6  
and 4549.10 be amended and section 4503.192 of the Revised Code be 7  
enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 4503.181.** (A) As used in this section, "historical motor 9  
vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is more than twenty-five 10  
years old and that is owned solely as a collector's item and for 11  
participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, parades, and 12  
similar uses, but in no event is used for general transportation. 13  
14

(B) In lieu of the annual license tax levied in sections 15  
4503.02 and 4503.04 of the Revised Code, a license fee of ten 16  
dollars is levied on the operation of an historical motor vehicle. 17

(C) A person who owns an historical motor vehicle and applies 18  
for a license ~~plates~~ plate under this section shall execute an 19  
affidavit that the vehicle for which ~~plates~~ are the plate is 20  
requested is owned and operated solely for the purposes enumerated 21  
in division (A) of this section, and also setting forth in the 22  
affidavit that the vehicle has been inspected and found safe to 23  
operate on the public roads and highways in the state. A person 24  
who owns an historical motor vehicle and desires to display a 25  
model year license ~~plates~~ plate on the vehicle as permitted by 26  
this section shall execute at the time of registration an 27  
affidavit setting forth that the model year license ~~plates~~ plate 28  
the person desires to display on the person's historical motor 29  
vehicle ~~are~~ is a legible and serviceable license ~~plates~~ plate that 30  
originally ~~were~~ was issued by this state. No registration issued 31  
pursuant to this section need specify the weight of the vehicle. 32

(D) A vehicle registered under this section may display an 33  
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate issued by the registrar of 34  
motor vehicles or a model year license ~~plates~~ plate procured by 35  
the applicant. ~~Historical~~ The historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ 36  
plate shall not bear a date, but shall bear the inscription 37  
"Historical Vehicle--Ohio" and the registration number, which 38  
shall be shown thereon. ~~Model~~ The model year license ~~plates~~ plate 39  
shall be a legible and serviceable license ~~plates~~ plate issued by 40  
this state and inscribed with the date of the year corresponding 41  
to the model year when the vehicle was manufactured. 42  
~~Notwithstanding section 4503.21 of the Revised Code, only one~~ Two 43  
model year license ~~plate is required to~~ plates, duplicates of each 44  
other, may be displayed on ~~the rear of~~ the historical motor 45  
vehicle at ~~all times~~ any time, one plate on the front and one 46  
plate on the rear of the vehicle. The registration certificate and 47  
the historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate issued by the 48  
registrar shall be kept in the vehicle at all times the vehicle is 49  
operated on the public roads and highways in this state. 50

Notwithstanding section 4503.21 of the Revised Code, the owner of an 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 an historical motor vehicle shall be issued an 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 registration numbers painted on the vehicle.

(E) Historical vehicle and model year license plates are valid without renewal as long as the vehicle for which they were issued or procured is in existence. ~~Historical~~ An historical vehicle ~~plates are~~ plate is issued for the owner's use only for such vehicle unless later transferred to another historical motor vehicle owned by that person. In order to effect such a transfer, the owner of the historical motor vehicle that originally displayed the historical vehicle ~~plates~~ plate shall comply with division (C) of this section. In the event of a transfer of title, the transferor shall surrender the historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate or transfer ~~them~~ it to another historical motor vehicle owned by the transferor, but a model year license ~~plates~~

plate may be retained by the transferor. The registrar may revoke 84  
license plates issued under this section, for cause shown and 85  
after hearing, for failure of the applicant to comply with this 86  
section. Upon revocation, an historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ 87  
plate shall be surrendered; a model year license ~~plates~~ plate may 88  
be retained, but no longer ~~are~~ is valid for display on the 89  
vehicle. 90

(F) The owner of an historical motor vehicle bearing an 91  
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate may replace ~~them~~ it with a 92  
model year license ~~plates~~ plate by surrendering the historical 93  
vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate and motor vehicle certificate of 94  
registration to the registrar. The owner, at the time of 95  
registration, shall execute an affidavit setting forth that the 96  
model year ~~plates~~ are plate is a legible and serviceable license 97  
~~plates~~ plate that originally ~~were~~ was issued by this state. Such 98  
an owner is required to pay the license fee prescribed by division 99  
(B) of this section, but the owner is not required to have the 100  
historical motor vehicle reinspected under division (C) of this 101  
section. 102

A person who owns an historical motor vehicle bearing a model 103  
year license ~~plates~~ plate may replace ~~them~~ it with an historical 104  
vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate by surrendering the motor vehicle 105  
certificate of registration and applying for issuance of an 106  
historical vehicle license ~~plates~~ plate. Such a person is required 107  
to pay the license fee prescribed by division (B) of this section, 108  
but the person is not required to have the historical motor 109  
vehicle reinspected under division (C) of this section. 110

**Sec. 4503.19.** (A) Upon the filing of an application for 111  
registration and the payment of the tax for registration, the 112  
registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar shall determine 113  
whether the owner previously has been issued a license ~~plates~~ 114

plate for the motor vehicle described in the application. If no 115  
license ~~plates~~ plate previously ~~have~~ has been issued to the owner 116  
for that motor vehicle, the registrar or deputy registrar shall 117  
assign to the motor vehicle a distinctive number and issue and 118  
deliver to the owner in the manner that the registrar may select a 119  
certificate of registration, in the form that the registrar shall 120  
prescribe, and, ~~except as otherwise provided in this section, two~~ 121  
~~a license plates, duplicates of each other,~~ plate and a validation 122  
sticker, or a validation sticker alone, to be attached to the 123  
~~number plates~~ license plate as provided in section 4503.191 of the 124  
Revised Code. The registrar or deputy registrar also shall charge 125  
the owner any fees required under division (C) of section 4503.10 126  
of the Revised Code. ~~Trailers, manufactured homes, mobile homes,~~ 127  
~~semitrailers, the manufacturer thereof, the dealer, or in transit~~ 128  
~~companies therein, shall be issued one license plate only and one~~ 129  
~~validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone, and the~~ The 130  
license plate and validation sticker shall be displayed ~~only~~ on 131  
the rear of ~~such vehicles. A~~ the vehicle, except that a commercial 132  
tractor ~~that does not receive an apportioned license plate under~~ 133  
~~the international registration plan shall be issued two~~ display 134  
the license ~~plates~~ plate and ~~one~~ validation sticker, ~~and the~~ 135  
~~validation sticker shall be displayed~~ on the front of the 136  
commercial tractor. ~~An apportioned vehicle receiving an~~ 137  
~~apportioned license plate under the international registration~~ 138  
~~plan shall be issued one license plate only and one validation~~ 139  
~~sticker, or a validation sticker alone; the license plate shall be~~ 140  
~~displayed only on the front of a semitractor and on the rear of~~ 141  
~~all other vehicles.~~ School buses shall not be issued a license 142  
~~plates~~ plate but shall bear identifying numbers in the manner 143  
prescribed by section 4511.764 of the Revised Code. The 144  
certificate of registration and license ~~plates~~ plate and 145  
validation ~~stickers~~ sticker, or validation ~~stickers~~ sticker alone, 146

shall be issued and delivered to the owner in person or by mail. 147  
Chauffeured limousines shall be issued ~~a license plates~~ plate, a 148  
validation sticker, and a livery sticker as provided in section 149  
4503.24 of the Revised Code. In the event of the loss, mutilation, 150  
or destruction of any certificate of registration, or of any 151  
license ~~plates~~ plate or validation ~~stickers~~ sticker, or if the 152  
owner chooses to replace the license ~~plates~~ plate previously 153  
issued for a motor vehicle, or if the registration certificate and 154  
license ~~plates~~ plate have been impounded as provided by division 155  
(B)(1) of section 4507.02 and section 4507.16 of the Revised Code, 156  
the owner of a motor vehicle, or manufacturer or dealer, may 157  
obtain from the registrar, or from a deputy registrar if 158  
authorized by the registrar, a duplicate thereof or a new license 159  
~~plates~~ plate bearing a different number, if the registrar 160  
considers it advisable, upon filing an application prescribed by 161  
the registrar, and upon paying a fee of one dollar for such 162  
certificate of registration, which one dollar fee shall be 163  
deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the state 164  
bureau of motor vehicles fund created in section 4501.25 of the 165  
Revised Code. Commencing with each request made on or after 166  
October 1, 2009, or in conjunction with a replacement license 167  
~~plates~~ plate issued for renewal registrations expiring on or after 168  
October 1, 2009, a fee of ~~seven dollars and fifty cents for each~~ 169  
~~set of two license plates or~~ six dollars and fifty cents for each 170  
~~single~~ license plate or validation sticker shall be charged and 171  
collected, of which the registrar shall deposit five dollars and 172  
fifty cents of each ~~seven dollar and fifty cent fee or each~~ 173  
dollar and fifty cent fee into the state treasury to the credit of 174  
the state highway safety fund created in section 4501.06 of the 175  
Revised Code and the remaining portion of each such fee into the 176  
state treasury to the credit of the state bureau of motor vehicles 177  
fund created in section 4501.25 of the Revised Code. In addition, 178

each applicant for a replacement certificate of registration, 179  
license plate, or validation sticker shall pay the fees provided 180  
in divisions (C) and (D) of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code. 181

Additionally, the registrar and each deputy registrar who 182  
either issues a license plates plate and a validation sticker for 183  
use on any vehicle other than a commercial tractor, semitrailer, 184  
or apportioned vehicle, or who issues a validation sticker alone 185  
for use on such a vehicle and the owner has changed the owner's 186  
county of residence since the owner last was issued county 187  
identification stickers, also shall issue and deliver to the owner 188  
~~either one or two~~ a county identification stickers, as appropriate 189  
sticker, which shall be attached to the license ~~plates~~ plate in a 190  
manner prescribed by the director of public safety. The county 191  
identification ~~stickers~~ sticker shall identify prominently by name 192  
or number the county in which the owner of the vehicle resides at 193  
the time of registration. 194

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 195  
misdemeanor. 196

Sec. 4503.192. The display of a single current license plate 197  
and validation sticker on the rear of a motor vehicle sufficiently 198  
indicates that the vehicle is registered in this state. Any 199  
reference in the Revised Code to license plates, a set of license 200  
plates, registration plates, or validation stickers is deemed to 201  
be a reference to the single license plate and validation sticker 202  
required by section 4503.19 of the Revised Code. 203

**Sec. 4503.21.** (A) No person who is the owner or operator of a 204  
motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the ~~front and~~ 205  
rear of the motor vehicle the distinctive number and registration 206  
mark, including any county identification sticker and any 207  
validation sticker issued under sections 4503.19 and 4503.191 of 208

the Revised Code, furnished by the director of public safety, 209  
~~except that a manufacturer of motor vehicles or dealer therein,~~ 210  
~~the holder of an in transit permit, and the owner or operator of a~~ 211  
~~motorcycle, motorized bicycle, manufactured home, mobile home,~~ 212  
~~trailer, or semitrailer shall display on the rear only. A motor~~ 213  
~~vehicle that is issued two license plates shall display the~~ 214  
~~validation sticker only on the rear license plate, except that a~~ 215  
~~commercial tractor that does not receive an apportioned license~~ 216  
~~plate under the international registration plan shall display the~~ 217  
~~license plate and~~ validation sticker on the front of the 218  
commercial tractor. ~~An apportioned vehicle receiving an~~ 219  
~~apportioned license plate under the international registration~~ 220  
~~plan shall display the license plate only on the front of a~~ 221  
~~commercial tractor and on the rear of all other vehicles. All The~~ 222  
license ~~plates~~ plate shall be securely fastened so as not to 223  
swing, and shall not be covered by any material that obstructs 224  
~~their~~ its visibility. 225

No person to whom a temporary license placard or windshield 226  
sticker has been issued for the use of a motor vehicle under 227  
section 4503.182 of the Revised Code, and no operator of that 228  
motor vehicle, shall fail to display the temporary license placard 229  
in plain view from the rear of the vehicle either in the rear 230  
window or on an external rear surface of the motor vehicle, or 231  
fail to display the windshield sticker in plain view on the rear 232  
window of the motor vehicle. No temporary license placard or 233  
windshield sticker shall be covered by any material that obstructs 234  
its visibility. 235

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor 236  
misdemeanor. 237

**Sec. 4503.23.** No motor vehicle designed to carry passengers, 238  
owned or leased by the state, or any of its departments, bureaus, 239



commissions, or institutions supported in whole or in part by 240  
funds provided by the state, shall be operated or driven by any 241  
person unless it has displayed, in a prominent position on ~~both~~ 242  
the ~~front and~~ rear of the vehicle, ~~identification plates which a~~ 243  
license plate that shall be the same size, shape, and treated for 244  
increased visibility in the same manner as those issued by the 245  
registrar of motor vehicles for private vehicles. ~~Such~~ 246  
~~identification plates~~ The license plate shall be attached to the 247  
vehicle in the same manner as provided by statute for the 248  
illumination and attachment of ~~a license plates~~ plate on private 249  
vehicles. The registrar shall designate the colors of the license 250  
~~tags which~~ plate that shall be used on state-owned cars; ~~such the~~ 251  
colors shall be other than those used on privately owned motor 252  
vehicles, and shall apply only to license plates used on 253  
state-owned motor vehicles. ~~Said plates~~ The plate shall bear a 254  
special serial number, and the words "Ohio State Car." 255

**Sec. 4549.10.** (A) No person shall operate or cause to be 256  
operated upon a public road or highway a motor vehicle of a 257  
manufacturer or dealer unless the vehicle carries and displays ~~two~~ 258  
~~placards~~ a placard, except as provided in section 4503.21 of the 259  
Revised Code, issued by the director of public safety that ~~bear~~ 260  
bears the registration number of its manufacturer or dealer. 261

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty 262  
of illegal operation of a manufacturer's or dealer's motor 263  
vehicle, a minor misdemeanor. 264

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4503.181, 4503.19, 4503.21, 265  
4503.23, and 4549.10 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 266