



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Daniel M. DeSantis

H.B. 354

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Uecker, O'Brien, Lundy, Letson, Grossman, Gonzales, Brenner, Derickson, Reece, Blair, Combs

BILL SUMMARY

- Expands eligibility requirements for the "Gold Star Family" license plate to include immediate family members of persons who died as a direct result of military service after an honorable discharge.
- Clarifies and expands the service requirements, with respect to the "Gold Star Family" license plate program, to include service in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Ohio National Guard.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Gold Star Family" license plate eligibility

The bill expands and clarifies the eligibility requirements for obtaining a "Gold Star Family" license plate to include any member of the immediate family of a person who died while serving, or who died after honorable discharge as a direct result of serving, as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, or the Ohio National Guard.

Current law, amended by the bill, requires that the death of the service member must have occurred in a combat zone while the person was a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States. Current law does not expressly include the reserve components of the United States armed forces or the Ohio National Guard.¹

¹ R.C. 4503.546(A).

Under continuing law, for purposes of the Gold Star Family license plate program, "member of the immediate family" of a service member means any of the following relations of the service member:

- (1) A spouse;
- (2) A parent, stepparent, or other person who acted in loco parentis;
- (3) A sibling, whether of the whole or half-blood, or by adoption;
- (4) A child, including those by adoption, or a stepchild; or
- (5) A grandparent.²

Penalty for falsification

Under continuing law, a person who willfully and falsely represents that the person is an eligible "member of the immediate family," for purposes of obtaining a "Gold Star Family" license plate, is guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree.³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-26-11

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² R.C. 4503.546(D).

³ R.C. 4503.546(C) and 2921.13.