



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### H.B. 70

130th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Terhar and Szollosi, Ashford, Grossman, Hackett, Johnson, Letson, Maag, Mallory, Milkovich, Pillich, Phillips, Retherford, Rogers, Scherer

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Badge license plates and limits their issuance to persons who have been awarded either the Combat Action Ribbon or the Combat Action Badge.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Badge license plates

Under the bill, any person who has been awarded the Combat Action Ribbon or the Combat Action Badge may apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar that the person owns or leases. The application for either license plate may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law. Upon presentation by the person to the Registrar of the required supporting evidence of the award of the Combat Action Ribbon or Combat Action Badge, receipt by the Registrar of the completed application, and compliance by the person with the bill's requirements, the Registrar is required to issue to the applicant the appropriate motor vehicle registration and a set of either Combat Action Ribbon or Combat Action Badge license plates with a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when required by current law.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on license plates, the license plates must be inscribed with the words "Combat Action Ribbon" or "Combat Action Badge" and bear a reproduction of the combat action ribbon or combat action badge. In both cases, the license plates also must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number.

The license plates and validation stickers are issued upon payment of the regular license tax prescribed in current law, any applicable local motor vehicle tax, and the applicant's compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles. If the application for Combat Action Ribbon or Combat Action Badge license plates is combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law, the applicant must also pay the applicable additional special reserved license plate fee.<sup>1</sup>

The bill prohibits a person who is not a recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon or Badge from knowingly and falsely representing that the person is a recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon or Badge for the purpose of obtaining license plates under the bill. The bill specifies that a person who violates this prohibition is guilty of falsification under current law. Falsification is a first degree misdemeanor.<sup>2</sup>

The bill also prohibits a person from owning a motor vehicle bearing license plates issued under the bill unless the person is eligible to be issued those license plates. The bill does not establish a penalty for this prohibition.<sup>3</sup>

### **Exemption from the minimum registration requirements and termination procedures generally applicable to special license plates**

Under current law, certain enumerated special license plates and generally all special license plates created since August 21, 1997, are subject to a minimum registration requirement and to termination and revival procedures. Specifically, the Registrar is not required to implement any legislation that creates a new license plate until the Registrar receives written statements from at least 500 persons indicating that they intend to apply for and obtain the special license plate.<sup>4</sup> If, during any calendar year, the total number of new and renewal motor vehicle registrations involving such a special license plate totals less than 500, the issuance of that special license plate may cease as of December 31 of the following year. A special license plate whose issuance is so ended may be revived if certain conditions are met.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4503.549(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.549(B)(1) and R.C. 2921.13, not in the bill.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4503.549(B)(2).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4503.78, not in the bill.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4503.79, not in the bill.

The bill exempts the Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Badge license plates from both the minimum registration requirement and the termination and revival procedures.<sup>6</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-20-13

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<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4503.549(C).

