

**As Introduced**

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

**S. B. No. 217**

**Senator Schaffer**

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**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.

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**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:

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

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(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.

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(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.

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

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(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