

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicle inspectors.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 → Section 1. KRS 186A.115 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the owner of every vehicle  
5 brought into this state and required to be titled in this state shall, before  
6 submitting his or her application for title to the county clerk, have the vehicle  
7 together with his or her application for title and its supporting documents  
8 inspected by a certified inspector in the county in which the application for  
9 title is to be submitted to the county clerk.
- 10 (b) An owner of a military surplus vehicle seeking title in this state shall, before  
11 submitting his or her application for title to the county clerk, have the vehicle  
12 together with his or her application for title and its supporting documents  
13 inspected by a certified inspector in the county in which the application for  
14 title is to be submitted to the county clerk.
- 15 (2) For inspections under this section:
- 16 (a) The certified inspector shall be certified through the Department of Vehicle  
17 Regulation following requirements set forth by the department by regulation  
18 and shall be designated by the county sheriff ***if the inspector is a current***  
19 ***member of his or her office or a special inspector appointed pursuant to***  
20 ***Section 3 of this Act.*** The certified inspector will be held responsible for all  
21 certifications required pursuant to this chapter and will be liable for any and  
22 all penalties prescribed in this chapter, and shall be available during regular  
23 office hours at any and all offices and branches that issue applications for  
24 titles;
- 25 (b) There shall be a ~~five dollar (\$5)~~ fee for this certification, payable to the  
26 sheriff's office, ***and the fee shall be retained by the sheriff's office for***  
27 ***official expenses of the office*** upon completion of certification ***in the amount***

1 of:

2 1. Thirty dollars (\$30) for a motor vehicle dealer that has an employee  
 3 who is a special inspector appointed under paragraph (d) of this  
 4 subsection;

5 2. Ten dollars (\$10) for a motor vehicle dealer that does not have an  
 6 employee who is a special inspector appointed under paragraph (d) of  
 7 this subsection; or

8 3. Ten dollars (\$10) for an individual person;

9 (c) There shall be an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) per trip when it becomes  
 10 necessary for the certified inspector to travel to the site of the vehicle rather  
 11 than bringing the vehicle to the sheriff's inspection area; ~~and~~

12 (d) A sheriff may appoint up to two (2) employees of a new or used motor  
 13 vehicle dealer licensed under KRS Chapter 190 that has sold an average of  
 14 one hundred (100) or more motor vehicles per month in the preceding  
 15 twelve (12) months and is doing business in the sheriff's county as special  
 16 inspectors solely to perform motor vehicle inspections under this section. A  
 17 special inspector appointed under this paragraph may complete the certified  
 18 inspection form only for vehicles purchased by that dealership for resale  
 19 and shall have his or her special inspector status revoked if he or she is no  
 20 longer an active employee of that dealership; and

21 (e) An inspection conducted in one (1) county within the Commonwealth of  
 22 Kentucky under this subsection, and the fees paid for that inspection under  
 23 this subsection, shall be honored by the certified inspector, sheriff, and county  
 24 clerk in all other counties within this state. A second inspection shall not be  
 25 required and additional fees shall not be required.

26 (3) The Transportation Cabinet may require that modifications be made to a military  
 27 surplus vehicle. Any modifications required by the cabinet under this section shall

1 be made to the military surplus vehicle prior to its inspection.

2 (4) The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to  
3 KRS Chapter 13A to implement the provisions of subsections (1)(b) and (3) of this  
4 section, including but not limited to vehicle modification requirements and the  
5 creation of a separate electronic inspection form. The Transportation Cabinet shall  
6 note that military vehicles were originally manufactured under the federally  
7 mandated requirements set forth in 49 C.F.R. sec. 571.7 and shall only require these  
8 vehicles to meet applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

9 (5) The following vehicles are excluded from the requirement of inspection by a  
10 certified inspector prior to titling in this state:

11 (a) New motor vehicles sold by a dealer licensed in this state;

12 (b) Vehicles required to be registered in this state by reason of lack of a  
13 reciprocity agreement with another state and for which a nonnegotiable  
14 registration document is to be issued;

15 (c) Motor vehicles operated by a motor carrier under a nonnegotiable certificate  
16 or permit issued by the Department of Vehicle Regulation;

17 (d) Motor vehicles owned by servicemen or servicewomen who are residents of  
18 Kentucky stationed outside of Kentucky may be inspected by the post provost  
19 or similar officer of the camp, post, or station. The post provost or similar  
20 officer shall submit an affidavit stating the name of the owner, the  
21 identification or serial number, the make, body style, current license or title  
22 number, if any, and state in which currently registered or titled, if any, of the  
23 motor vehicle;

24 (e) Motor vehicles purchased in another state by persons who are residents of  
25 Kentucky but are temporarily residing out of state for at least thirty (30) days,  
26 but not longer than nine (9) months, may after the purchase of the vehicle be  
27 inspected by the state police, a local law enforcement agency, or the vehicle

1 inspection program of another state. If an inspector in another state examines  
 2 a vehicle under this paragraph, the purchaser may request the inspector to  
 3 complete an affidavit stating the name of the owner, the vehicle identification  
 4 number, the vehicle make and body style, the current state of registration, if  
 5 any, and the current vehicle license or title number, if any. The Transportation  
 6 Cabinet shall create an affidavit form containing at a minimum this  
 7 information and shall post the form on the cabinet's internet ~~website~~  
 8 ~~site~~. A person using an inspector in another state under this paragraph shall  
 9 comply with all requirements of that state's inspection program, including  
 10 payment of fees charged in that state. A person registering a motor vehicle for  
 11 the first time in Kentucky under this paragraph shall transmit the application  
 12 for registration, all supporting documentation, and payment for registration  
 13 and usage tax to the county clerk of the county in which the person resides,  
 14 and upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, the county clerk shall  
 15 register the vehicle; and

16 (f) Motor vehicles no longer located in Kentucky but which require inspection in  
 17 order to issue a corrected Kentucky title due to error in vehicle identification  
 18 or serial number may be inspected by an inspector authorized to inspect  
 19 vehicle identification or serial number by the laws of the state or foreign  
 20 country where application for a new title has been submitted.

21 (6) When presented to a certified inspector for inspection ~~and~~  
 22 processing, the owner's application for a first certificate of registration or title in his  
 23 or her name shall be accompanied by a current operator's license  
 24 ~~insurance in compliance with KRS 304.39-080]~~ and one (1) of the following  
 25 documents as applicable:

26 (a) If the vehicle is a new vehicle not previously registered in this state, the  
 27 properly assigned manufacturer's statement of origin for the vehicle for which

- 1 registration or title is sought;
- 2 (b) If the vehicle was last registered in this state, and is a vehicle for which a title  
3 is not required in this state, a certificate of registration, or if the vehicle is one  
4 for which a certificate of title is required in this state, a properly assigned  
5 certificate of title;
- 6 (c) If the vehicle was last previously titled in another state, a properly assigned  
7 certificate of title;
- 8 (d) If the application refers to a vehicle previously registered in another country,  
9 the documents of that country establishing ownership of the vehicle;
- 10 (e) If the application refers to a vehicle last previously registered in another  
11 country by a person on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States,  
12 the county clerk may accept on behalf of the Department of Vehicle  
13 Regulation evidence of ownership provided the applicant by the United States  
14 Department of Defense; and
- 15 (f) Except as provided in KRS 186A.072(2)(c) governing custom-built  
16 motorcycles, if the application relates to a vehicle which has been specially  
17 constructed or reconstructed, that fact shall be stated in the application, and  
18 the application shall be accompanied by the documents specified by  
19 administrative regulations of the Department of Vehicle Regulation.
- 20 (7) When requested to inspect a vehicle pursuant to this section, the certified inspector  
21 shall personally and physically inspect the vehicle, when registration or title is  
22 sought in this state, on the following points:
- 23 (a) ~~He or she shall ensure that the application is legible and properly executed to~~  
24 ~~the extent required at the time of execution;~~
- 25 (b) ~~He or she shall compare the vehicle identification number as appearing on~~  
26 both the vehicle identification number plate, and the federal safety standards  
27 label of the vehicle which is sought to be registered or titled, with the

1 corresponding number inscribed on the application, and its supporting  
 2 documentation, and ensure that the vehicle identification number appearing at  
 3 each described location appears legitimate and that they are consistent with  
 4 each other;

5 ~~(b)~~~~(e)~~ He or she shall examine the primary odometer of the vehicle and  
 6 electronically~~legibly~~ record the reading in the space provided in the  
 7 inspection section of the application;~~and~~

8 ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ After exercising due diligence in inspecting the vehicle~~, the~~  
 9 ~~application,~~ and its supporting documentation, and finding that they appear to  
 10 be in order, the certified inspector shall execute the electronic~~preprinted~~  
 11 certificate of inspection according to its terms by electronically  
 12 inputting~~printing~~ in the spaces provided his or her first name, middle initial,  
 13 and last name, certified inspector number,~~and~~ his or her title; the name of  
 14 the county in which he or she serves; and the telephone number including the  
 15 telephone area code of his or her agency,~~and sign in ink his or her signature~~  
 16 ~~in the space provided,~~ and enter~~print~~ the month, day, and year in which his  
 17 or her inspection was made, certifying under penalty of forgery in the second  
 18 degree the character, accuracy, and date of his or her inspection; and

19 (d) A certified inspector number shall not be subject to an open records request  
 20 under KRS 61.870 to 61.884 unless otherwise required by a court order.

- 21 (8) The certified inspector shall refrain from executing the certificate of inspection if:
- 22 (a) He or she has not personally and physically inspected the vehicle in  
 23 accordance with this section;
- 24 (b) He or she has reason to believe that the vehicle displays an unlawfully altered  
 25 vehicle identification number;
- 26 (c) The application and any of its copies are illegible or otherwise improperly  
 27 executed, or contain information reasonably believed to be inaccurate or

1 fraudulent;

2 (d) The documentation required in support of any application is not present, or  
3 not consistent with the vehicle and the owner's application or appears  
4 fraudulent; or

5 (e) He or she has probable cause to believe the vehicle is stolen.

6 (9) (a) Inspections on motor vehicles that meet the definition of a "historic vehicle"  
7 under KRS 186.043(2) and are brought into this state shall be limited to  
8 verification of the vehicle identification number with supporting  
9 documentation for purposes of titling.

10 (b) Inspections on motor vehicles that meet the definition of a classic motor  
11 vehicle project as set forth in KRS 186A.510 shall be limited to verification of  
12 the vehicle identification number with supporting documentation for purposes  
13 of issuing a classic motor vehicle project certificate of title under KRS  
14 186A.535(1).

15 **(10) The electronic certification of inspection shall not be handled by any person or**  
16 **persons other than those designated individuals within the offices of the sheriff,**  
17 **county clerk, or other state office.**

18 **(11) The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations**  
19 **pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to implement the provisions of this section,**  
20 **including but not limited to special inspectors classified as dealer inspectors only**  
21 **and the creation of an electronic certified vehicle inspection form and receipt.**

22 → Section 2. KRS 186A.990 is amended to read as follows:

23 (1) Any person who knowingly gives false, fraudulent, or erroneous information in  
24 connection with an application for the registration, and when required, titling of a  
25 vehicle, or any application for assignment of a vehicle identification number, or  
26 replacement documents, or gives information in connection with his **or her** review  
27 of applications, or falsely certifies the truthfulness and accuracy of information

1 supplied in connection with the registration and when required, titling of a vehicle,  
2 shall be guilty of forgery in the second degree.

3 (2) Any person who violates KRS 186A.260 or KRS 186A.275 to 186A.285 shall be  
4 guilty of a Class D felony.

5 (3) Any person who violates KRS 186A.300 to 186A.315 shall be guilty of a Class D  
6 felony.

7 (4) Any person who operates a motor vehicle or trailer upon the highways of this state  
8 without a temporary tag when one is required, or with one that is expired,  
9 improperly executed, or displayed on a vehicle other than the one (1) to which it  
10 was legitimately and lawfully issued, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

11 (5) Any person who violates the disclosure provisions of KRS 186A.530(8) shall be  
12 guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

13 (6) Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter, or regulations promulgated  
14 pursuant thereto, and for which a specific penalty is not prescribed by statute, shall  
15 be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

16 (7) Criminal remedies or sanctions provided in this chapter are in addition to, and not  
17 exclusive of, any other criminal remedies or sanctions provided elsewhere in the  
18 statutes.

19 **(8) Any person who intentionally or willfully divulges his, her, or another person's**  
20 **certified inspector number to any person other than those designated individuals**  
21 **within the offices of the sheriff, county clerk, or other state office, except in the**  
22 **course of his or her official assigned duties, shall be guilty of a Class A**  
23 **misdemeanor.**

24 **(9) Any person who intentionally or willfully sells his, her, or another person's**  
25 **certified inspector number to any person or persons shall be guilty of a Class D**  
26 **felony.**

27 → Section 3. KRS 70.030 is amended to read as follows:



- 1 (1) The sheriff may appoint his or her own deputies and may revoke the appointment at  
2 his or her pleasure, except where that revocation is prohibited by the provisions of  
3 KRS 70.260 to 70.273. Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, a sheriff may  
4 appoint a deputy who resides outside the Commonwealth. In a county containing a  
5 consolidated local government or city of the first class with a deputy sheriff merit  
6 board, the term of office of a deputy shall continue from sheriff to sheriff unless a  
7 deputy is removed according to the provisions of KRS 70.260 to 70.273. Before any  
8 deputy executes the duties of his or her office, he or she shall take the oath required  
9 to be taken by the sheriff.
- 10 (2) The sheriff may appoint his or her own certified court security officers and may  
11 revoke the appointment at his or her pleasure. A certified court security officer shall  
12 take an oath to faithfully perform the duties of his or her office and that he or she  
13 possesses the minimum qualifications under KRS 15.3971.
- 14 (3) The sheriff may appoint nonsworn clerical, technical, professional, and support  
15 personnel to assist him or her in the performance of the duties of his or her office.  
16 All nonsworn personnel shall serve at the pleasure of the sheriff.
- 17 (4) No sheriff whose county has adopted a deputy sheriff merit board under KRS  
18 70.260 shall appoint a deputy who is a member of the immediate family of the  
19 sheriff. The term "member of the immediate family" has the meaning given in KRS  
20 70.260.
- 21 (5) Except for certified court security officers, a sheriff's office may, upon the written  
22 request of the sheriff, participate in the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation  
23 Program Fund authorized by KRS 15.410 to 15.510 without the county establishing  
24 a deputy sheriff merit board. This subsection shall not prohibit the sheriff from  
25 requesting the consolidated local government or the fiscal court to establish a  
26 deputy sheriff merit board.
- 27 **(6) The sheriff may appoint nonsworn special inspectors solely to perform motor**

1 *vehicle inspections under Section 1 of this Act.*