

**CHAPTER 30****(HB 92)**

AN ACT relating to special military license plates.

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

Section 1. KRS 186.041 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The provisions of this section shall govern the issuance of all special military-related license plates. Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, a person who wants to purchase a special military-related license plate shall apply to the county clerk in the county where the person lives on a form prescribed by the Transportation Cabinet. Each initial and renewal application shall be accompanied by proof that the person is associated with the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kentucky National Guard, Merchant Marines with service between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945, or Civil Air Patrol in one (1) of the following ways:
  - (a) An active component member;
  - (b) A retired member; or
  - (c) A veteran who received a discharge under honorable conditions, or the veteran's widow and:
    1. Performed twenty-four (24) months of active-duty service;
    2. Received an early release due to injuries or other medical condition, or at the convenience of the service;
    3. Received a hardship discharge;
    4. Was separated or retired due to a disability; or
    5. Was determined to have a service-connected disability incurred during the enlistment.
- (2) Initial registration and renewal registration fees for special military-related license plates shall be charged as provided in this subsection and KRS 186.174:
  - (a) Disabled veterans and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor licensed under subsection (5) of this section shall not be charged an initial registration fee and shall not be charged a renewal registration fee. The license plate and certificate of registration shall be issued free of charge.
  - (b) The initial registration fee shall be a seventeen dollar (\$17) state fee that shall be divided under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section and that includes the cost to reflectorize the plate under KRS 186.240(2)(c) and a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee, and the renewal registration fee shall be a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee for:
    1. Former prisoners of war licensed under subsection (11) of this section;
    2. Survivors of Pearl Harbor licensed under subsection (12) of this section; and
    3. Members of the National Guard licensed under subsection (13) of this section.
  - (c) The initial registration fee shall be a seventeen dollar (\$17) state fee that shall be divided under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, and the renewal

registration fee shall be a twelve dollar (\$12) state fee that includes the cost to reflectorize the plate under KRS 186.240(2)(c) and a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee for:

1. Disabled veterans licensed under subsection (6) of this section;
  2. Purple Heart recipients licensed under subsection (10) of this section, except that if a Purple Heart recipient also qualifies as a disabled veteran under subsection (5) of this section, the Purple Heart recipient may receive either a Purple Heart or a disabled veteran's license plate, both initial and renewal, and the certificate of registration free of charge;
  3. Members of the Civil Air Patrol licensed under subsection (14) of this section; and
  4. Other active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marines licensed under subsection (15) of this section.
- (d) Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross licensed under subsection (9) of this section shall be charged an initial registration fee and a renewal registration fee of three dollars (\$3.00) that shall be retained by the county clerk. A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross licensed under subsection (9) of this section shall not be charged a state fee when initially receiving the plate or upon annual renewal of the plate.
- (e) The initial and renewal registration fee for a military license plate that has been combined with a personalized license plate under the provisions of this section shall be as provided under KRS 186.174.
- (3) The initial state fee collected under subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this section shall be divided between the Transportation Cabinet and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Transportation Cabinet shall receive twelve dollars (\$12) of the initial state fee and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall receive five dollars (\$5) of the initial state fee. The county clerk shall forward money collected under subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this section to the Transportation Cabinet who shall forward the money to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on a quarterly basis and the department shall deposit the money into the veterans' program trust fund established by KRS 40.460(2)(b). A person renewing a special military license plate issued under this section may donate five dollars (\$5) to support the veteran's program trust fund. Money donated under this subsection shall be paid to the county clerk who shall forward the money to the Transportation Cabinet who shall forward the money on a quarterly basis to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the department shall deposit the money into the veteran's program trust fund established by KRS 40.460(2)(b).
- (4) (a) A special military-related license plate may be issued for use on:
1. A passenger car registered under KRS 186.050(1);
  2. *A motorcycle or sidecar attachment registered under subsection (2) of Section 2 of this Act;* or~~for~~
  3. A commercial vehicle registered under KRS 186.050(3)(a) that has a gross laden weight of six thousand (6,000) pounds or less.

- (b) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section and KRS 186.174, a license plate issued under this section shall have the renewal registration decal issued annually during the applicant's birth month and shall be a five (5) year license plate. The member, retired member, veteran, or reservist may purchase two (2) special military-related license plates annually for vehicles they own or lease. A license plate issued under this section may be combined with a personalized license plate under the provisions of KRS 186.174.
- (5) A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, or a disabled veteran who has been or shall be given financial assistance toward the purchase or lease of a motor vehicle by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. sec. 1901, or any other public law that may be passed by the Congress of the United States shall initially and annually be issued a certificate of registration and a special military-related license plate free of charge.
- (6) A veteran who has been declared to be at least seventy percent (70%) service-connected disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or who is receiving total service-connected disability rating for compensation on individual unemployability, and who has not received financial assistance from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs toward the purchase or lease of a motor vehicle shall be eligible for a disabled veterans license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(c) of this section.
- (7) A disabled veterans license plate shall be printed in red, white, and blue colors. Half of the license plate shall be in one (1) color, the other half a second color, and the figures and lettering in the third color. Each plate shall contain the international symbol of access adopted by Rehabilitation International in 1969, the name of the state, the year, the registration number, and the words "Disabled Vet." A disabled veterans license plate shall have the renewal registration decal issued annually on July 31.
- (8) A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor shall be eligible for a Congressional Medal of Honor license plate that shall be printed in blue and white colors and shall follow the color scheme for all figures and letters as prescribed for passenger cars. Each plate shall contain the name or an abbreviation of the state and the words "Medal of Honor" and a number uniquely identifying each recipient, in lieu of registration numbers.
- (9) A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross shall be eligible for a Service Cross license plate upon submission of an application to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs. The recipient shall be required to include with the initial application for a Service Cross license plate a copy of the general order that authorized the award and the recipient's Department of Defense form number 214. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall verify the documentation submitted with the application for a Service Cross license plate, and if the individual applying for the plate is confirmed to be a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall submit the applicant's name to the Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing not later than September 1 preceding the year that the Service Cross license plate is to be initially issued or renewed. When the Service Cross license plate is ready, the plate shall be sent to the county clerk in the county of the applicant's residence. The Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing shall inform each applicant in writing that the Service Cross license plate is ready and may be picked up at the

county clerk's office. Each Service Cross license plate shall contain the name or an abbreviation for the state and an alphabetic or numeric designation uniquely identifying each recipient of a Service Cross license plate in lieu of registration numbers. The Transportation Cabinet shall have the authority to select three (3) designs and the appropriate color scheme for each design of the Service Cross license plate. In addition to the requirements of this subsection, the Transportation Cabinet shall have the authority to include other information on the Service Cross license plate. The Transportation Cabinet shall prescribe the type of application form required by this subsection and shall supply the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the application form required by this subsection.

- (10) A recipient of a Purple Heart medal shall be eligible for a Purple Heart license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(c) of this section. A Purple Heart license plate shall bear the name "Purple Heart," a registration number, and an appropriate logo to be determined by the Transportation Cabinet.
- (11) A person who is a former prisoner of the enemy during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or the spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war, shall be eligible for a former prisoner of war license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(b) of this section. The application shall be accompanied by written proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other appropriate federal agency stating the period of time the person or person's spouse was a prisoner of war. A former prisoner of war license plate shall be printed in red, white, and blue colors. Each plate shall contain the name of the state, the year, the registration number, and the words "Former P.O.W." If a former prisoner of war dies with a vehicle licensed as authorized under this section, the person's surviving spouse may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or on another vehicle that complies with the provisions of subsection (4) of this section.
- (12) A person who is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association as being a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be eligible for a Pearl Harbor license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(b) of this section. The Transportation Cabinet shall issue an applicant an appropriately designed plate identifying the vehicle as registered to a Pearl Harbor survivor. The person shall be required to attach to the special military-related license plate application written evidence from the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association that the person:
  - (a) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941;
  - (b) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three (3) miles;
  - (c) Was discharged honorably from the United States Armed Forces; and
  - (d) Is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- (13) A person who is a member of the Kentucky National Guard, or a retired member, shall be eligible for a National Guard license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(b) of this section. A National Guard license plate shall bear the name "Kentucky National Guard," a registration number, and the logo of the National Guard. Upon termination of membership in the Kentucky National Guard, except for those

who remain eligible through retirement, a person shall comply with the provisions of subsection (16) of this section.

- (14) A person who is a member of the Civil Air Patrol shall be eligible for a Civil Air Patrol license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(c) of this section. A Civil Air Patrol license plate shall bear the name "Civil Air Patrol," a registration number, and an appropriate logo to be determined by the Transportation Cabinet. Upon termination of membership in the Civil Air Patrol, a person shall comply with the provisions of subsection (16) of this section.
- (15) (a) A person who meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall be eligible for a military license plate upon payment of the initial registration fee required in subsection (2)(c) of this section. The plate shall bear:
1. A seal indicating Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or, in the case of the Merchant Marines, a seal indicating the branch of service issuing a discharge;
  2. A decal indicating whether the person's status is active duty, reserve duty, veteran, retired veteran, or widow; and, if applicable, a decal for auxiliary in the case of the Coast Guard or a decal for the Merchant Marines;
  3. A veteran's decal may further indicate a veteran's service in a wartime era; and
  4. A registration number.
- (b) Upon termination of membership in the active component or reserves of the United States Armed Forces or the United States Coast Guard, a person shall comply with the provisions of subsection (16) of this section.
- (c) The Transportation Cabinet, in coordination with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, shall promulgate an administrative regulation under KRS Chapter 13A defining criteria for the issuance of specific decals for veterans' wartime service.
- (16) Except for persons changing their status to retired, within thirty (30) days of termination of membership or reserve status in a group eligible for a special military-related license plate, a person issued a military plate under this section or a combined personalized/special military license plate issued under KRS 186.174, shall return the plate to the county clerk of the county of his residence. Upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee, the county clerk shall issue the person a regular license plate to replace the plate being surrendered.
- (17) Upon the sale, transfer, or termination of a lease of a motor vehicle for which a special military-related license plate has been issued, the owner shall return the military plate and the certificate of registration to the county clerk. The county clerk shall issue a regular license plate and certificate of registration upon payment of a twelve dollar (\$12) state fee which includes the fifty cent (\$0.50) fee to reflectorize the plate under KRS 186.240(2)(c) and a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee. The twelve dollar (\$12) state fee shall be forwarded to the Transportation Cabinet. Upon request and payment of a three dollar (\$3) fee, the county clerk shall reissue the special military-related license plate for use on any other vehicle owned by the same person who purchased the special plate for the current licensing period.

- (18) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations to set forth the documentation required in order to establish a person's qualifications to receive any license plate issued under this section.
- (19) A person seeking a special military-related license plate for a vehicle provided to that person pursuant to an occupation shall conform to the requirements of KRS 186.050(14).
- (20) If a special military-related license plate is lost, stolen, mutilated, or deteriorates to the point where the inscriptions or decals are not discernible, the person to whom the plate was issued may obtain a replacement plate free of charge.

Section 2. KRS 186.050 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The annual registration fee for motor vehicles, including taxicabs, airport limousines, and U-Drive-Its, primarily designed for carrying passengers and having provisions for not more than nine (9) passengers, including the operator, and pickup trucks and passenger vans which are not being used on a for-hire basis shall be eleven dollars fifty cents (\$11.50).
- (2) ***Except as provided in Section 1 of this Act,*** the annual registration fee for each motorcycle shall be nine dollars (\$9), and for each sidecar attachment, seven dollars (\$7).
- (3) (a) All motor vehicles having a declared gross weight of vehicle and any towed unit of six thousand (6,000) pounds or less, except those mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) of this section and those engaged in hauling passengers for hire, operating under certificates of convenience and necessity, are classified as commercial vehicles and the annual registration fee, except as provided in subsections (4) to (14) of this section, shall be eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50).
- (b) All motor vehicles except those mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, and those engaged in hauling passengers for hire, operating under certificates of convenience and necessity, are classified as commercial vehicles and the annual registration fee, except as provided in subsections (3)(a) and (4) to (14) of this section, shall be as follows:

Declared Gross Weight of Vehicle and Any Towed Unit	Registration Fee
6,001-10,000	\$24.00
10,001-14,000	30.00
14,001-18,000	50.00
18,001-22,000	132.00
22,001-26,000	160.00
26,001-32,000	216.00
32,001-38,000	300.00
38,001-44,000	474.00
44,001-55,000	669.00
55,001-62,000	1,007.00
62,001-73,280	1,250.00
73,281-80,000	1,410.00

- (4) (a) Any farmer owning a truck having a gross weight of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds or less may have it registered as a farmer's truck and obtain a license for eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50). The applicant's signature upon the certificate of registration and ownership shall constitute a certificate that he is a farmer engaged in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products, that he owns a truck of the gross weight of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds or less, and that during the next twelve (12) months the truck shall not be used in for-hire transportation and may be used in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, machinery, livestock, material, and supplies necessary for his farming operation, and the products grown on his farm.
- (b) Any farmer owning a truck having a declared gross weight in excess of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) pounds shall not be required to pay the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and, in lieu thereof, shall pay forty percent (40%) of the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and shall be exempt from any fee charged under the provisions of KRS 281.752. The applicant's signature upon the registration receipt shall be considered to be a certification that he is a farmer engaged solely in the production of crops, livestock or dairy products, and that during the current registration year the truck will be used only in transporting persons, food, provender, feed, and machinery used in operating his farm and the products grown on his farm.
- (5) Any person owning a truck or bus used solely in transporting school children and school employees may have the truck or bus registered as a school bus and obtain a license for eleven dollars fifty cents (\$11.50) by filing with the county clerk, in addition to other information required, an affidavit stating that the truck or bus is used solely in the transportation of school children and persons employed in the schools of the district, that he has caused to be printed on each side of the truck or bus and on the rear door the words "School Bus" in letters at least six (6) inches high, and of a conspicuous color, and the truck or bus will be used during the next twelve (12) months only for the purpose stated.
- (6) Any church or religious organization owning a truck or bus used solely in transporting persons to and from a place of worship or for other religious work may have the truck or bus registered as a church bus and obtain a license for eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50) by filing with the county clerk, in addition to other information required, an affidavit stating that the truck or bus will be used only for the transporting of persons to and from a place of worship, or for other religious work, and that there has been printed on the truck or bus in large letters the words "Church Bus," with the name of the church or religious organization owning and using the truck or bus, and that during the next twelve (12) months the truck or bus will be used only for the purpose stated.
- (7) Any person owning a motor vehicle with a gross weight of fourteen thousand (14,000) pounds or less on which a wrecker crane or other equipment suitable for wrecker service has been permanently mounted may register the vehicle and obtain a license for eleven dollars fifty cents (\$11.50) by filing with the county clerk, in addition to other information required, an affidavit that a wrecker crane or other equipment suitable for wrecker service has been permanently mounted on such vehicle and that during the next twelve (12) months the vehicle will be used only in wrecker service. If the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds fourteen thousand (14,000) pounds, the vehicle shall be registered in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. The gross weight of a vehicle used in wrecker service shall not include the weight of the vehicle being towed by the wrecker.

- (8) Motor vehicles having a declared gross weight in excess of eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds, which when operated in this state are used exclusively for the transportation of property within the limits of the city named in the affidavit hereinafter required to be filed, or within ten (10) miles of the city limits of the city if it is a city of the first, second, third, or fourth class, or within five (5) miles of its limits if it is a city of the fifth or sixth class, or anywhere within a county containing an urban-county government, shall not be required to pay the fee as set out in subsection (3) of this section, and in lieu thereof shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the fee set forth in subsection (3) of this section and shall be exempt from any fee charged under the provisions of KRS 281.752. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any right of nonresidents to exemption from registration under any other provisions of the laws granting reciprocity to nonresidents. Operations outside of this state shall not be considered in determining whether or not the foregoing mileage limitations have been observed. When claiming the right to the reduced fee, the applicant's signature on the certificate of registration and ownership shall constitute a certification or affidavit stating that the motor vehicle when used within this state is used only for the transportation of property within the city to be named in the affidavit and the area above set out and that the vehicle will not be used outside of a city and the area above set out during the current registration period.
- (9) Motor vehicles having a declared gross weight in excess of eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds, which are used exclusively for the transportation of primary forest products from the harvest area to a mill or other processing facility, where such mill or processing facility is located at a point not more than fifty (50) air miles from the harvest area or which are used exclusively for the transportation of concrete blocks or ready-mixed concrete from the point at which such concrete blocks or ready-mixed concrete is produced to a construction site where such concrete blocks or ready-mixed concrete is to be used, where such construction site is located at a point not more than thirty (30) air miles from the point at which such concrete blocks or ready-mixed concrete is produced shall not be required to pay the fee as set out in subsection (3) of this section, and in lieu thereof, shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the fee set out in subsection (3) of this section and shall be exempt from any fee charged under the provisions of KRS 281.752. The applicant's signature upon the certificate of registration and ownership shall constitute a certification that the motor vehicle will not be used during the current registration period in any manner other than that for which the reduced fee is provided in this section.
- (10) Any owner of a commercial vehicle registered for a declared gross weight in excess of eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds, intending to transfer same and desiring to take advantage of the refund provisions of KRS 186.056(2), may reregister such vehicle and obtain a "For Sale" certificate of registration and ownership for one dollar (\$1). Title to a vehicle so registered may be transferred, but such registration shall not authorize the operation or use of the vehicle on any public highway. No refund may be made under the provisions of KRS 186.056(2) until such time as the title to such vehicle has been transferred to the purchaser thereof. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent the seller of a commercial vehicle from transferring the registration of such vehicle to any purchaser thereof.
- (11) The annual registration fee for self-propelled vehicles containing sleeping or eating facilities shall be twenty dollars (\$20) and the multiyear license plate issued shall be designated "Recreational vehicle." The foregoing shall not include any motor vehicle



primarily designed for commercial or farm use having temporarily attached thereto any sleeping or eating facilities, or any commercial vehicle having sleeping facilities.

- (12) The registration fee on any vehicle registered under this section shall be increased fifty percent (50%) when the vehicle is not equipped wholly with pneumatic tires.
- (13)
  - (a) The Department of Vehicle Regulation is authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement or agreements for the purpose of developing and instituting proportional registration of motor vehicles engaged in interstate commerce, or in a combination of interstate and intrastate commerce, and operating into, through or within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The agreement or agreements may be made on a basis commensurate with, and determined by, the miles traveled on, and use made of, the highways of this Commonwealth as compared with the miles traveled on and use made of highways of other states, or upon any other equitable basis of proportional registration. Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 186.020, the cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations concerning the registration of motor vehicles under any agreement or agreements made under this section and shall provide for direct issuance by it of evidence of payment of any registration fee required under such agreement or agreements. Any proportional registration fee required to be collected under any proportional registration agreement or agreements shall be in accordance with the taxes established in this section.
  - (b) Any owner of a commercial vehicle who is required to title his motor vehicle under this section shall first title such vehicle with the county clerk pursuant to KRS 186.020 for a state fee of one dollar (\$1). Title to such vehicle may be transferred; however title without proper registration shall not authorize the operation or use of the vehicle on any public highway. Any commercial vehicle properly titled in Kentucky may also be registered in Kentucky, and, upon payment of the required fees, the department may issue an apportioned registration plate to such commercial vehicle.
  - (c) Any commercial vehicle that is properly titled in a foreign jurisdiction, which vehicle is subject to apportioned registration, as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection, may be registered in Kentucky, and, upon proof of proper title, and payment of the required fees, the department may issue an apportioned registration plate to the commercial vehicle. The department shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with this section.
- (14) Any person seeking to obtain a special license plate for an automobile that has been provided to him pursuant to an occupation shall meet both of the following requirements:
  - (a) The automobile shall be provided for the full-time exclusive use of the applicant; and
  - (b) The applicant shall obtain permission in writing from the vehicle owner or lessee on a form provided by the cabinet to use the vehicle and for the vehicle to bear the special license plate.

**Approved April 2, 2004**