

## CHAPTER 53

## ( SB 236 )

AN ACT relating to vehicle license plates.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 186.005 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) It is declared to be the policy of this Commonwealth that all ~~commercial~~ vehicles should be regulated, registered, and the laws pertaining thereto be administered by the Transportation Cabinet. Motor vehicles other than commercial vehicles should be registered, regulated, and controlled by the Transportation Cabinet and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.
- (2) All motor vehicles registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1) shall be on an annual basis and evidenced by a license plate whose registration designation is a combination of ~~three (3)~~ letters of the alphabet and ~~three (3)~~ Arabic numerical digits. These registration plates shall be issued for use during a multiyear period and validated for continued use the following year, or years, by affixing an appropriate insignia of plastic or adhesive material bearing the date of the new year.
- (3) ***Unless otherwise specified***, all motor vehicles ~~registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(3)(a), (4)(a), (5), (6), or (11)~~ shall have registration plates issued for use during a multiyear period and validated for continued use the following year, by affixing an appropriate insignia of plastic or adhesive material bearing the date of the new year.
- (4) The Transportation Cabinet may promulgate regulations and prepare the proper insignia and forms, which forms shall include information required by the Transportation Cabinet.

➔Section 2. KRS 186.240 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) It shall be the duty of the cabinet to carry out the provisions of KRS 186.005 to 186.260, and:
  - (a) ***Provide*** ~~Prepare and furnish~~ to the clerk in each county ***access to*** ~~a sufficient supply of~~ all forms ~~and blanks~~ provided for in KRS 186.005 to 186.260 ~~The forms for receipts shall be designated for the writing of not less than triplicate copies, the originals of which shall be numbered consecutively for each county, the second and third copies bearing the same number as the original. Receipts to be used as duplicates for lost receipts, as provided in KRS 186.180(1), shall be in duplicate only, and shall not be numbered~~;
  - (b) Keep a numerical record of all registration numbers issued in the state ~~for which they may use the second copy of receipts forwarded by the clerk of each county,~~ and also keep a record of motor or vehicle identification numbers required by KRS 186.160; and
  - (c) Furnish to each clerk, originally each year upon estimate, and thereafter upon requisition at all times, a sufficient supply of ***standard, noncommercial plates and the supplies necessary to provide evidence of*** ~~and other insignia evidencing~~ registration for all classes of vehicles required to be registered.
  - (d) ~~the cabinet shall~~ Prescribe a plate of practical form and size for police identification purposes that shall contain:
    1. The registration ***identifier*** ~~number~~;
    2. ***An indication that Kentucky is the issuing jurisdiction;***
    3. ***For standard plates for noncommercial vehicles, the county in which the plate is issued;*** ~~The word "Kentucky;" and~~
    4. ~~3.~~ ***For*** ~~The name of the county in which the plate is issued, or in lieu thereof the words "Official," "Transportation," "Executive," or "Farm."~~ plates for commercial vehicles, ~~shall contain~~ the year the license expires and words or information the Department of Vehicle Regulation may prescribe by administrative regulation, pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A; ~~and~~ Numerals indicating a year shall not be placed upon any license plate issued pursuant to KRS 186.060, relating to the licensing of vehicles owned exclusively by the state and KRS 186.061,

~~relating to the licensing of vehicles owned exclusively by a nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, and volunteer fire protection unit.~~

5. *At the discretion of the cabinet*, a state slogan ~~may be placed upon the plate.~~
- (2) License plates issued pursuant to *this chapter* ~~[KRS 186.050(1)]~~ shall conform to the provisions of subsection (1)(c) *and (d)* of this section. ~~except:~~
- (a) ~~The word "Kentucky" shall be centered above the county name in which the plate is issued;~~
- (b) ~~The words "Bluegrass State" shall be centered at the top of the plate above the registration number; and~~
- (c) ~~The name of the county in which the plate is issued shall be centered in the lower portion of the plate below the registration number and shall be printed in letters that are the same size as those used to print the word "Kentucky." Beginning January 1, 1993,~~ The Transportation Cabinet shall provide for the issuance of reflectorized plates for all motor vehicles, and shall collect a fee, in addition to the fee set out in KRS Chapter 186 and KRS 281.631, of fifty cents (\$0.50). The fifty cents (\$0.50) fee to reflectorize license plates shall be used by the cabinet as provided in subsection (3) of this section. ~~]~~
- (3) The reflectorized license plate program fund is established in the state road fund and appropriated on a continual basis to the cabinet to administer the moneys as provided in this subsection. The fifty cents (\$0.50) fee collected by the cabinet to reflectorize license plates shall be deposited into the program fund and used to issue reflectorized license plates. If at the end of a fiscal year, money remains in the program fund, it shall be retained in the fund and shall not revert to the state road fund. The interest and income earned on money in the program fund shall also be retained in the program fund to carry out the provisions of this subsection. The Transportation Cabinet shall *issue* ~~begin issuing the new~~ reflectorized license *plates* ~~plate~~ under the provisions of this subsection on ~~January 1, 2003, and shall continue to issue a new reflectorized license plate on~~ a schedule to be determined at the discretion of the cabinet. ~~in the years thereafter;~~
- (4) Except as directed under subsection (3) of this section, the Transportation Cabinet shall receive all moneys forwarded by the clerk in each county and turn it over to the State Treasurer for the benefit of the state road fund. ~~]~~
- (5) The Transportation Cabinet shall require an accounting by the clerk in each county for any moneys received by him under the provisions of this chapter, after the deduction of his fees under this chapter, and for all receipts, forms, plates, and insignia consigned to him. The Auditor of Public Accounts, pursuant to KRS 43.071, shall annually audit each county clerk concerning his responsibilities for the collection of various fees and taxes associated with motor vehicles. The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, with the advice, consultation, and approval of the Auditor, shall develop and implement an inventory and accounting system which shall insure that the audits mandated in KRS 43.071 are performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The Transportation Cabinet shall pay for the audits mandated by KRS 43.071. ~~]~~
- (6) When applied for under *Section 3 or 4 of this Act* ~~[KRS 186.160]~~, motor or vehicle numbers assigned shall be distinctive to show that they were designated by the cabinet.
- ➔ Section 3. KRS 186.060 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) Applications for registration of motor vehicles leased or owned by a county, city, urban-county, or board of education, or emergency and ambulance vehicles operated by nonprofit corporations organized by units of government in the state or by the state or federal government shall be accompanied by a statement from the head of the department of the governmental unit that leases or owns the motor vehicle, certifying that the motor vehicle is leased or owned and operated by the governmental unit. The application and statement shall be forwarded by the county clerk to the cabinet, which shall give special authority to the clerk to register it. Upon receiving that authority, the clerk shall issue a registration receipt and the official number plate described in *subsection (6) of Section 2 of this Act* ~~[KRS 186.240(1)(e)]~~, and report the registration to the head of the department authorizing the registration. For his services in issuing such certificate of registration and number plate and reporting the same, the county clerk shall be entitled to a fee of three dollars (\$3) in each instance, to be paid by the department upon whose authorization such license was issued.
- (2) After such registration of any vehicle leased or owned by a county, city, urban-county, or board of education, or emergency and ambulance vehicles operated by nonprofit corporations organized by units of government in the state, or by the state or federal government and after issuance of such number plate for such vehicle so leased or owned, no subsequent registration or renewal of same, and no subsequent renewal of a number plate of the vehicle shall be necessary so long as the vehicle is leased or owned by the governmental unit except in

the case of loss or destruction of the license plate. In the event of loss or destruction, the number plate shall be replaced in the same manner as if no plate had ever been issued.

- (3) When a motor vehicle leased or owned by a county, city, urban-county, or board of education, or emergency and ambulance vehicles operated by nonprofit corporations organized by units of government in the state, or by the state or federal government is transferred or sold to another governmental unit, a new license plate shall be issued for the vehicle in the same manner as provided for in subsection (1) of this section and shall have the same effect as given to such license plates in subsection (2) of this section.
- (4) No person shall use on a motor vehicle, not leased or owned by a county, city, urban-county, board of education, or emergency and ambulance vehicles operated by nonprofit corporations organized by units of government in the state, or the state or federal government, any license plate that has been issued for use on a motor vehicle leased or owned by the governmental unit.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 186.020 and 186.050, a governmental entity which leases a motor vehicle may have that vehicle equipped with an official plate under this section. Upon termination of the lease agreement, if ownership of the motor vehicle does not revert to an entity allowed to use an official plate under this section, the owner of the motor vehicle shall surrender the official plates and apply for registration under the provisions of KRS 186.050.

➔Section 4. KRS 186.061 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Applications for registration of motor vehicles owned exclusively by any nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, or volunteer fire protection unit shall be accompanied by a statement from the chief or assistant chief of the volunteer fire department or unit that owns the motor vehicle, certifying that the motor vehicle is exclusively owned and operated by the volunteer fire department or unit. The application and statement shall be forwarded by the county clerk to the cabinet, which shall give special authority to the clerk to register it. Upon receiving that authority, the clerk shall issue a registration receipt and the official number plate described in *subsection (6) of Section 2 of this Act* ~~[KRS 186.240(1)(c)]~~, and report the registration to the head of the cabinet authorizing the registration. For his services in issuing such certificate of registration and number plate and reporting the same, the county clerk shall be entitled to a fee of three dollars (\$3) in each instance, to be paid by the volunteer fire department or unit.
- (2) After registration of any vehicle owned exclusively by any nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, or volunteer fire protection unit and after issuance of a number plate for the vehicle so owned, no subsequent registration or renewal of same, and no subsequent renewal of a number plate of the vehicle shall be necessary so long as the vehicle is owned exclusively by the volunteer fire department or unit except in the case of loss or destruction of the license plate. In the event of loss or destruction, the number plate shall be replaced in the same manner as if no plate had ever been issued.
- (3) When a motor vehicle owned exclusively by any nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, or volunteer fire protection unit is transferred or sold to another nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, or volunteer fire protection unit or another governmental unit a new license plate shall be issued for the vehicle in the same manner as provided for in subsection (1) of this section and shall have the same effect as given to such license plates in subsection (2) of this section.
- (4) No person shall use on a motor vehicle, not exclusively owned by any nonprofit volunteer fire department, volunteer fire prevention unit, or volunteer fire protection unit, any license plate that has been issued for use on a motor vehicle owned by a volunteer fire department or unit.

**Signed by Governor March 19, 2021.**