

CHAPTER 92

(HB 370)

AN ACT relating to special license plates and making an appropriation.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 186.162 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section and in KRS 186.043, 186.164, 186.166, 186.1722, and 186.174:
- (a) "Special license plate" means a unique license plate issued under this chapter to a group or organization that readily identifies the operator of the motor vehicle or motorcycle bearing the plate as a member of a group or organization, or a supporter of the work, goals, or mission of a group or organization. The term shall not include regular license plates issued under KRS 186.240;
 - (b) "Street rod" means a modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949, or designed or manufactured to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to 1949;
 - (c) "SF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is dedicated for use by the Transportation Cabinet;
 - (d) "CF" means the *county clerk's fee for issuing a motor vehicle registration as established under subsection (1) of Section 2 of this Act* ~~portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is dedicated for use by a county clerk~~. If a CF amount is charged for a license plate listed in this section, the applicant for that plate shall also pay the fees identified in KRS 186.040(6). If a CF amount is not charged, the applicant shall not be required to pay those fees; and
 - (e) "EF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is mandated by this chapter to be dedicated for use by a particular group or organization.
- (2) The initial purchase fee and renewal fee for a special license plate created under this chapter shall be as established in this subsection and includes the name of group or organization and the total initial and renewal fee required for the plate. The amount in parentheses indicates how the total fee is required to be divided:
- (a) Disabled veterans who receive assistance to purchase a vehicle from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, veterans declared by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disabled, and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
 - (b) Former prisoners of war and survivors of Pearl Harbor:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - (c) Members of the Kentucky National Guard and recipients of the Purple Heart:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - (d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, *the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge*, or the Bronze Star Medal ~~awarded for valor~~; persons who wish to receive Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates beyond the two (2) exempted from fees under KRS 186.041(6); individuals eligible for a special military service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8); and disabled

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veterans who have been declared to be between fifty percent (50%) and ninety-nine percent (99%) service-connected disabled by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs:

1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (e) Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross:
1. Initial Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (f) Disabled license plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (g) Historic vehicles:
1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$56 (\$50 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.
- (h) Members of Congress:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (i) Firefighters:
1. Initial Fee: ~~\$28~~~~18~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~0~~ EF *to the Kentucky Firefighters Association*).
 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~18~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~0~~ EF *to the Kentucky Firefighters Association*).
- (j) Emergency management:
1. Initial Fee: \$31 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky FOP Death Benefit Fund).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- (m) Personalized plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (n) Street rods:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (o) Nature plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- (p) Amateur radio:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- (q) Kentucky General Assembly:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:
1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (s) Masons:
1. Initial Fee: ~~\$41~~~~[\$31]~~ (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$0]~~ EF *to the Masonic Homes of Kentucky*).
 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~[\$18]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$0]~~ EF *to the Masonic Homes of Kentucky*).
- (t) Collegiate plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$53 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
- (u) Independent Colleges:
1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- (v) Child Victims:
1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- (w) Kentucky Horse Council:
1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
- (x) Ducks Unlimited:

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1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
- (y) Spay neuter:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses:
1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
 3. A person may receive a maximum of two (2) plates under this paragraph free of charge and may purchase additional plates for fees as established in subsection (2)(d) of this section.
- (aa) I Support Veterans:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
- (ab) Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Sons, or Gold Star Daughters:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (ac) **POW/MIA Awareness:**
1. **Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).**
 2. **Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).**
- (ad) ~~{Special license plates established between June 20, 2005, and June 27, 2019:~~
- ~~1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).~~
 - ~~2. Renewal Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).~~
- (ad) ~~}]Special license plates established under KRS 186.164[on or after June 27, 2019]:~~
1. **Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).**
 2. **Renewal Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).**
 - ~~1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$24 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).~~
 - ~~2. Renewal Fee \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).~~
- (3) Any special license plate may be combined with a personalized license plate for a twenty-five dollar (\$25) state fee in addition to all other fees for the particular special license plate established in this section and in KRS 186.164(3). The twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee required under this subsection shall be divided between the cabinet and the county clerk of the county where the applicant is applying for the license plate with the cabinet receiving twenty dollars (\$20) and the county clerk receiving five dollars (\$5).
- (4) (a) **A sponsoring organization of any special license plate issued under this section or any special license plate established under the provisions of KRS 186.164 may petition the cabinet for the production of that special license plate for motorcycles.**
- (b) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be eligible to receive special license plates **approved by the cabinet under paragraph (a) of this subsection**~~{issued under this section~~

~~or established under the provisions of KRS 186.164 after the cabinet has received three hundred (300) applications and initial state fees from the sponsoring organization]. Applicants for a special license plate for a motorcycle shall be required to pay the fee for a special plate as prescribed in this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid for the special plate for a motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required under KRS 186.050(2).~~

➔Section 2. KRS 186.040 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Upon receiving the application and fee, the county clerk shall issue to the owner a certificate of registration containing the information required by subsection (2) of this section and a registration plate. If the cabinet finds that there is a shortage of materials suitable for making plates, or that a substantial saving will result, it may require by regulation with the approval of the Governor that previously issued plates continue to be used for a designated period. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section **and in Section 1 of this Act**, for services performed, the owner shall pay the county clerk the sum of six dollars (\$6) for each registration, or if the registration exceeds a twelve (12) month period, the clerk shall receive a fee of nine dollars (\$9).
- (2) The certificate of registration shall contain the registration number, the name and post office address of the owner, and such other information as the cabinet may require.
- (3) An owner who registers a vehicle under KRS 186.050 that has a declared gross vehicle weight with any towed unit of forty-four thousand and one (44,001) pounds or greater shall pay the county clerk thirty dollars (\$30) for each registration. The clerk shall retain the thirty dollar (\$30) fee for services performed under this subsection.
- (4) Any person requesting a certificate of registration or renewal of registration of any type of motor vehicle shall have the opportunity to donate one dollar (\$1) to the child care assistance account. The one dollar (\$1) donation shall be added to the regular fee for vehicle registration. One donation may be made per issuance or renewal of vehicle registration. Donation to the child care assistance account shall be voluntary and may be refused by the applicant at the time of the issuance or renewal of any vehicle registration.
- (5) The county clerk may retain five percent (5%) of fees collected for the child care assistance account under subsection (4) of this section. The remaining funds shall be deposited into a trust and agency account in the State Treasury to the credit of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for the exclusive use as follows:
 - (a) Funds shall be made available to the agencies that administer child care subsidy funds; and
 - (b) Funds shall be used as determined by the cabinet for working families whose income exceeds the state income eligibility limits for child day care assistance.
- (6) **Except as provided in Section 1 of this Act** ~~[Notwithstanding any other provision of law]~~, in addition to the registration fee provided for county clerks in subsections (1) and (3) of this section, an additional three dollars (\$3) per registration shall be collected by the county clerk at the time of registration. This additional fee shall be distributed as follows:
 - (a) One dollar (\$1) shall be placed in an agency fund to provide additional funds exclusively for technological improvements or replacement of the AVIS system. The operation and maintenance of AVIS shall remain as currently provided for from the operational budget of the Transportation Cabinet and shall not be reduced below the 2005-2006 funding level;
 - (b) One dollar (\$1) shall be placed in an agency trust fund to provide funds exclusively for technological improvements to the hardware and software in county clerk offices related to the collection and administration of road fund taxes. The Transportation Cabinet, in consultation with county clerks, shall allocate funds as necessary from this fund to be used for this exclusive purpose; and
 - (c) One dollar (\$1) shall be placed in a trust fund to be maintained by the Transportation Cabinet to provide an unrestricted revenue supplement, for operations of the office related to the collection and administration of road fund taxes, to county clerk offices in counties containing a population of less than twenty thousand (20,000), as determined by the decennial census, and for no other purpose. Annually, by March 1, the Transportation Cabinet shall calculate the amount collected in the previous calendar year and distribute the entire fund proportionate to each county that qualifies under this paragraph based on population. This revenue shall be considered current year revenue when paid to the clerk and shall not be identified as excess fees from the previous year.

➔Section 3. KRS 186.164 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The SF portion of the fee required under KRS 186.162 shall include the fee to reflectorize all license plates under KRS 186.240. All EF fees required under KRS 186.162 shall be collected at the time of an initial or renewal application by the county clerk who shall forward the EF fee to the cabinet. The cabinet shall remit EF fees to the group or organization identified in KRS 186.162 on a quarterly basis. The cabinet may retain any investment income earned from holding EF fees designated to be remitted under this subsection to offset administrative costs incurred by the cabinet in the administration of EF fees.
- (2) A special license plate shall be the color and design selected by the group or organization identified in subsection (13) of this section, contingent upon the approval of the Transportation Cabinet. In addition to the design selected for a special license plate, the name "Kentucky," an annual renewal decal, and any combination of letters or numerals required by the cabinet in the design shall also appear on the plate.
- (3) An actual metal special license plate shall be issued on the same schedule as regular license plates are issued under KRS 186.240. The cabinet shall have the discretion to extend the time period that will exist between the date a metal special license plate is issued and the date that regular plates are issued under KRS 186.240. A renewal registration decal shall be issued all other years during the owner's or lessee's birth month, except as provided in KRS 186.041(2) and 186.042(5). A person seeking a special license plate for a vehicle provided as part of the person's occupation shall conform to the requirements of KRS 186.050(14).
- (4)
 - (a) If a special license plate issued under this chapter deteriorates to the point that the lettering, numbering, or images on the face of the plate are not legible, the plate shall be replaced free of charge, if the owner or lessee has not transferred the vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.
 - (b) If a special license plate issued under this chapter is lost, stolen, or damaged in an accident, the county clerk shall issue a new plate upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee, if the owner or lessee has not transferred the vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.
- (5) Upon the sale, transfer, or termination of a lease of a vehicle with any special license plate issued under this chapter, the owner or lessee shall remove the special plate and return it and the certificate of registration to the county clerk. The county clerk shall reissue the owner or lessee a regular license plate and a certificate of registration upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee. If the owner or lessee requests, the county clerk shall reissue the special plate upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee for use on any other vehicle of the same classification and category owned, leased, or acquired by the person during the current licensing period. If the owner or lessee has the special plate reissued to a vehicle which has been previously registered in this state, the regular license plate that is being replaced shall be returned to the county clerk who shall forward the plate to the Transportation Cabinet.
- (6) A special license plate may be issued to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle that is required to be registered under KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), except a special license plate shall not be issued to a taxicab, limousine, or U-Drive-It registered and licensed under this chapter or KRS Chapter 281. A person applying for a special license plate shall apply in the office of the county clerk in the county of the person's residence, except as provided in KRS 186.168(3). All special license plates issued under this chapter may be combined with a personalized license plate under the provisions of KRS 186.174. The fee to combine a special license plate with a personalized license plate shall be as established in KRS 186.162(3).
- (7) Within thirty (30) days of termination from election to, appointment to, or membership with any group or organization, an applicant to whom a special license plate was issued under this chapter shall return the special license plate to the county clerk of the county of his or her residence, unless the person is merely changing his or her status with the group or organization to retired.
- (8) A group wanting to create a special license plate that is not authorized under this chapter on June 27, 2019, shall comply with the following conditions before being eligible to apply for a special license plate:
 - (a) The group shall be nonprofit and based, headquartered, or have a chapter in Kentucky;
 - (b) The group may be organized for, but shall not be restricted to, social, civic, or entertainment purposes;
 - (c) The message to be placed on the license plate, if created, shall not discriminate against any race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and shall not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as an attempt to victimize or intimidate any person due to the person's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;
 - (d) The plate shall not represent a political party and shall not have been created primarily to promote a specific political belief;

- (e) The plate shall not have as its primary purpose the promotion of any specific faith, religion, or antireligion;
 - (f) The plate shall not be the name of a special product or brand name, and shall not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as promoting a product or brand name; and
 - (g) The plate's lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on the license plate, if created, shall not be obscene, as determined by the cabinet.
- (9) If the cabinet denies to issue a group a special license plate based upon the conditions specified in subsection (8) of this section, the cabinet shall, immediately upon denying to issue a group a special license plate, notify in writing the chairperson of both the House and Senate standing committees on transportation of the denial and the reasons upon which the cabinet based the denial.
- (10) If the cabinet approves a request for a special license plate, the cabinet shall begin designing and printing the plate after:
- (a) The group collects a minimum of nine hundred (900) applications with each application being accompanied by a fee as set forth in KRS 186.162. The applications and accompanying fee shall be submitted to the cabinet at one (1) time as a whole and shall not be submitted individually or intermittently; and
 - (b) The group submits to the cabinet the programming and production costs for the plate.
- (11) A group that is approved for a special license plate shall maintain a minimum number of five hundred (500) registrations annually for the cabinet to continue production of the plate.
- (12) An initial applicant for, or an applicant renewing, his or her registration for a special license plate shall, at the time of application, make a contribution that the county clerk shall forward to the cabinet as set forth in KRS 186.162. The cabinet shall, on an annual basis, remit the contributions to the appropriate group identified to be used for the declared purpose stated under subsection (13) of this section. The cabinet may retain any investment income earned from holding contributions designated to be remitted under this subsection to offset administrative costs incurred by the cabinet in the administration of the contributions. Any group or organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under KRS 186.162 shall maintain the information required under subsection (13)(a) and (c) of this section with the Transportation Cabinet.
- (13) The group shall, at the time the nine hundred (900) applications are submitted to the Transportation Cabinet, also submit a notarized affidavit to the cabinet attesting to:
- (a) The name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization. If the group or organization does not have its headquarters in the Commonwealth, then the name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization's Kentucky state chapter shall be required. The names of the officers of the group or organization shall also be required. If the entity receiving funds under subsection (12) of this section is not a state governmental agency, a program unit within a state governmental agency, or is a group or organization that does not have a statewide chapter, then a donation for use by the group or organization shall be prohibited;
 - (b) The amount of the monetary donation the group wants to receive when a person purchases the group or organization's special license plate; and
 - (c) The purpose for which the donated funds will be used by the group or organization. Donated funds shall not be limited for use by members of the group or organization, and shall not be used for administrative or personnel costs of the group or organization.
- (14) All funds received by a group or organization under subsection (12) of this section shall be deposited into an account separate from all other accounts the group or organization may have, and the account shall be audited yearly at the expense of the group or organization. The completed audit shall be forwarded to the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort. One hundred percent (100%) of the funds received by a group or organization under subsection (12) of this section shall be used for the express purpose identified by the group in subsection (13) of this section. Any group or organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under KRS 186.162 shall comply with the provisions of this subsection.
- (15) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations under KRS Chapter 13A to establish additional rules to implement the issuance of special license plates issued under this chapter, including but not limited to:

- (a) Documentation that will be required to accompany an application for a special license plate to provide proof of:
1. Election to the United States Congress or the Kentucky General Assembly;
 2. Election or appointment to the Kentucky Court of Justice;
 3. Membership in a Masonic Order, Fraternal Order of Police, or emergency management organization;
 4. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Mothers of America;
 5. Eligibility as a father for associate membership in the Gold Star Mothers of America;
 6. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Wives of America;
 7. Ownership of an amateur radio operator license;
 8. Receipt of the Silver Star Medal;
 9. Receipt of the Bronze Star Medal~~[awarded for valor]~~;
 10. **Receipt of the Air Medal;**
 11. **Receipt of the Distinguished Flying Cross;**
 12. **Receipt of the Combat Action Badge;**
 13. **Receipt of the Combat Infantry Badge;**
 14. Eligibility for a Gold Star Siblings license plate for a person whose sibling died while serving the country in the United States Armed Forces. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "sibling" means a sibling by blood, a sibling by half-blood, a sibling by adoption, or a stepsibling; or
 - 15.~~[14.]~~ Eligibility for a Gold Star Sons or Gold Star Daughters license plate for a person whose parent or stepparent died while serving the country in the United States Armed Forces;
- (b) The time schedule permissible for a group or organization to request a design change for the special license plate; and
- (c) The procedures for review of proposed license plates and the standards by which proposed special license plates are approved or rejected in accordance with subsection (10) of this section.
- (16) Any individual, group, or organization that fails to audit any funds received under this chapter, or that intentionally uses any funds received in any way other than attested to under subsection (13) of this section or for administrative or personnel costs in violation of subsection (13) of this section, shall be guilty of a Class D felony and upon conviction shall, in addition to being subject to criminal penalties, be assessed a mandatory five thousand dollar (\$5,000) fine.

➔Section 4. KRS 186.166 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Transportation Cabinet shall, unless directed otherwise by the General Assembly, perpetually produce the following special license plates: military license plates, U.S. Congressional license plates, firefighter license plates, emergency management license plates, Fraternal Order of Police license plates, Law Enforcement Memorial license plates, street rod license plates, nature license plates, amateur radio license plates, Kentucky General Assembly license plates, Kentucky Court of Justice license plates, Masonic Order license plates, collegiate license plates, independent college and university license plates, child victims' trust fund license plates, Kentucky Horse Council license plates, Ducks Unlimited license plates, Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, and Spouses license plates, Gold Star Siblings, Sons, and Daughters license plates, Silver Star Medal license plates, Bronze Star Medal license plates, **Air Medal license plates, Distinguished Flying Cross license plates, Combat Action Badge license plates, Combat Infantry Badge license plates, POW/MIA Awareness license plates**, spay neuter license plates, service academy license plates, and I Support Veterans license plates.
- (2) The design of the plates identified for perpetual production under this section may be revised upon request of a group or organization requesting a design revision under the provisions of KRS 186.164(15).
- (3) (a) The design of a Purple Heart license plate shall not include any representation of the word "Kentucky" that is a registered trademark or slogan which appears on a general issue license plate.

- (b) The design of a Purple Heart license plate shall include a representation of the Purple Heart medal and the words "Combat Wounded."

➔Section 5. KRS 186.041 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each initial and renewal application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section and each initial application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of this section for a special military license plate shall be accompanied by proof as set forth in subsection (10) of this section 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) A member of the Armed Forces of the United States;
 - (b) A retired member;
 - (c) A member of the National Guard or Reserve component who has completed his or her term of service, or has retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service; or
 - (d) A veteran who received a discharge under honorable conditions, or the veteran's surviving spouse, and:
 - 1. Performed one hundred eighty (180) days 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) The member, retired member, veteran, reservist, or his or her spouse who is eligible under subsection (9) of this section may purchase an unlimited number of special military-related license plates described in subsection (1) of this section, annually for vehicles they own or lease. A disabled veterans license plate shall expire on July 31.
- (3) 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. 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.
- (4) 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 by submitting 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. 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 KRS 186.164(7).
- (5) 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 and 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.
- (6) A person who is eligible to receive a Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plate under KRS 186.164(15)(a) may receive up to two (2) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates free of charge and may purchase additional license plates by paying the same fee as for special military-related plates issued under KRS 186.162(2)(d) annually for vehicles he or she owns or leases.
- (7) The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient, or a Kentucky National Guard member or a retired member, who possessed a vehicle licensed with the Purple Heart recipient special license plate or the Kentucky National Guard special license plate, may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or another vehicle that complies with KRS 186.164(7). The surviving spouse may renew the license plate indefinitely, provided the appropriate registration fee is paid annually.
- (8) A person who is attending or who is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, or the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall be eligible for a special military service academy license plate. A special military service academy license plate under this subsection shall use the same plate template as the standard special military license plate under subsection (1) of this section, with stickers to identify the various service academies. The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to establish the proof required to demonstrate current attendance at or graduation from a service academy. An eligible applicant may receive up to two (2) special military service academy license plates.
- (9) (a) The legally married spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who meets the criteria for a special military license plate under subsection (1) of this section shall be eligible for a special military license plate. A special military license plate under this subsection shall use the same template as the standard special military license plate under subsection (1) of this section, with a sticker identifying the plate as that of a military spouse.
- (b) *An applicant who is eligible for a special military license plate under this subsection shall present as proof of eligibility an original or copy of his or her marriage certificate establishing marriage to the member of the Armed Forces of the United States and an original or copy of one (1) of the following:*
1. *His or her unexpired DD-1173 form; or*
 2. *Any identification document outlined in subsection (10) of this section issued to his or her spouse.*
- (10) Prior to receiving a special military-related plate requested under subsection (1) of this section, the applicant shall present ~~one (1) of the following~~ as proof of *eligibility, an original or copy of his or her* ~~veteran status~~:
- (a) *Unexpired* ~~An original or copy of his or her~~ Veteran Identification Card or Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; ~~or a~~
 - (b) *DD-2, DD-214, DD-256, DD-257, or NGB-22 form; or*
 - (c) ~~(b)~~ *Unexpired* ~~A current military or~~ Geneva Conventions Identification Card *issued by the United States Department of Defense* ~~establishing current service, dependent status, or retirement status in the Armed Forces of the United States~~.

Signed by Governor March 23, 2021.