

### **186.174 Personalized license plates.**

- (1) For purposes of this section, "personalized license plate" means a license plate manufactured by the cabinet upon an applicant's request with specific letters or numbers or combinations of letters and numbers significant to the applicant.
- (2) Any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle that is required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), (4)(a), or (11), or any owner or lessee of a motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2) may obtain a personalized license plate by submitting an application through a website designated by the cabinet. The cabinet shall produce the requested license plate upon approval and receipt of the fee required in subsection (4) of this section for a special license plate, or the fee required in KRS 186.162 for a standard issue license plate.
- (3) Personalized license plates shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the person to whom the license plate is registered.
- (4)
  - (a) A personalized license plate shall be replaced on the same schedule as regular issue license plates unless it is damaged or unreadable.
  - (b) A standard issued license plate may be personalized:
    1. For the fee established in KRS 186.162(2)(m) for a motor vehicle that is required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or a motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2); or
    2. For the fee established in KRS 186.162(2)(ad) for a recreational vehicle that is required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(11).
  - (c) 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. The twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee required under this paragraph shall be divided between the cabinet and the county clerk of the county where the applicant resides with the cabinet receiving twenty dollars (\$20) and the county clerk receiving five dollars (\$5).
- (5)
  - (a) A personalized plate shall not be issued that would conflict with or duplicate any current issued license plate.
  - (b) A personalized plate shall not be issued if the cabinet determines:
    1. The message to be placed on the license plate, if created, discriminates against a race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;
    2. The plate message is the name of a trademarked or copyrighted product or brand name; or
    3. The plate's lettering or message is obscene or profane, as determined by the cabinet.
  - (c) Once an applicant obtains a personalized plate, he or she will have first priority on that plate for each of the following years that he or she makes timely renewal payments.

**Effective:** January 1, 2025

**History:** Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 95, sec. 1, effective January 1, 2025. -- Amended 2022 Ky. Acts ch. 155, sec. 1, effective July 14, 2022. -- Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 107, sec. 4, effective June 27, 2019. -- Amended 2018 Ky. Acts ch. 148, sec. 1, effective July 14, 2018. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 133, sec. 8, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 347, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 543, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 200, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 428, sec. 22, effective July 15, 1994. -- Amended 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 296, sec. 4, effective July 13, 1990; and ch. 498, sec. 4, effective July 13, 1990. -- Amended 1988 Ky. Acts ch. 143, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1988; ch. 150, sec. 10, effective July 15, 1988; and ch. 241, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1988. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 203, sec. 5, effective July 15, 1982. -- Amended 1980 Ky. Acts ch. 335, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1980. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 239, sec. 9, effective June 17, 1978. -- Created 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 153, sec. 3, effective January 1, 1977.