

186.162 Special license plates for members or supporters of certain groups and organizations -- Initial and renewal fees -- Combination of special license plate with personalized license plate -- Special license plates for motorcycles. (Effective January 1, 2027)

- (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 KRS 186.040(1). Unless otherwise noted, an applicant for one (1) of the license plates listed in subsection (2) of this section shall pay both the CF amount and 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 (no CF charged):
 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 EF).
 - (b) Former prisoners of war, recipients of the Purple Heart, and survivors of Pearl Harbor:
 1. Initial Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$5 (\$0 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

- (c) Members of the Kentucky National Guard:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the National Guard Association of Kentucky).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$5 (\$0 SF/\$5 EF to the National Guard Association of Kentucky).
- (d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard; Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge, or the Bronze Star Medal; 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); individuals eligible for a special military unit license plate under KRS 186.163; and disabled 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: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$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: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 EF).
- (f) Disabled license plates:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$12 (\$12 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$12 (\$12 SF/\$0 EF).
- (g) Historic vehicles:
 - 1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$50 (\$50 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.
- (h) Members of Congress:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (i) Firefighters:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Firefighters Association).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Firefighters Association).

- (j) Emergency management:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$25 (\$25 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$12 (\$12 SF/\$0 EF).
- (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the KentuckyFOP Death Benefit Fund).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the KentuckyFOP Death Benefit Fund).
- (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- (m) Personalized plates 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):
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
- (n) Street rods:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$12 (\$12 SF/\$0 EF).
- (o) Nature plates:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- (p) Amateur radio:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$12 (\$12 SF/\$0 EF).
- (q) Kentucky General Assembly:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$37 (\$37 SF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$5 (\$0 SF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (s) Masons:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the Masonic Homes of Kentucky).

2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Masonic Homes of Kentucky).
- (t) Collegiate plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$47 (\$37 SF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
- (u) Independent Colleges:
1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$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: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$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: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- (w) Kentucky Horse Council:
1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
- (x) Ducks Unlimited:
1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
- (y) Spay neuter:
1. Initial Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses (no CF charged):
1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/ \$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/ \$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: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
- (ab) Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Sons, or Gold Star Daughters:
1. Initial Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (ac) POW/MIA Awareness:
1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (ad) Personalized plates for a recreational vehicle that is required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(11):
1. Initial Fee: \$45 (\$45 SF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$45 (\$45 SF/\$0 EF).
- (ae) Friends of Kentucky Agriculture:
1. Initial Fee: \$22 (\$12 SF/\$10 EF to the Friends of Kentucky Agriculture fund established under KRS 246.243).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$17 (\$12 SF/\$5 EF to the Friends of Kentucky Agriculture fund established under KRS 246.243).
- (af) Special license plates established under KRS 186.164:
1. Initial Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$10 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$35 (\$25 SF/\$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) The cabinet shall make all of the special military license plates in this section available for motorcycles owned or leased by eligible individuals.
- (c) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be eligible to receive special license plates approved by the cabinet under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. 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).

- (5) The Transportation Cabinet shall:
- (a) Identify the cost of issuing a child victims' trust fund special license plate under subsection (2)(v) of this section; and
 - (b) Transfer any revenue received from the initial or renewal SF fee that is in excess of the cost identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400.

Effective: January 1, 2027

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 135, sec. 30, effective January 1, 2027; and ch. 161, sec. 99, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 31, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2025. -- Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 95, sec. 2, effective January 1, 2025; ch. 100, sec. 7, effective July 15, 2024; and ch. 166, sec. 30, effective July 15, 2024. -- Amended 2023 Ky. Acts ch. 185, sec. 5, effective January 1, 2024. -- Amended 2022 Ky. Acts ch. 105, sec. 2, effective July 14, 2022. -- Amended 2021 Ky. Acts ch. 92, sec. 1, effective June 29, 2021. -- Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 107, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2019. -- Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 50, sec. 1, effective January 1, 2018. -- Amended 2015 Ky. Acts ch. 32, sec. 1, effective January 1, 2016. -- Amended 2014 Ky. Acts ch. 56, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2014; and ch. 91, sec. 2, effective January 1, 2015. -- Amended 2011 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 2, effective upon contingency. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 33, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2010; ch. 72, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2001; ch. 113, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2010; and ch. 129, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 30, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2008; and ch. 164, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2007 Ky. Acts ch. 23, sec. 1, effective June 26, 2007; and ch. 39, sec. 1, effective June 26, 2007. -- Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 40, sec. 1, effective July 12, 2006; and ch. 190, sec. 2, effective July 12, 2006. -- Created 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 133, sec. 1, effective June 20, 2005.

Legislative Research Commission Note (1/1/2027). This statute was amended by 2026 Ky. Acts chs. 135 and 161, which do not appear to be in conflict and have been codified together.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/15/2024). 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 166, sec. 66, provides that the amendments to this statute in that Act apply to fiscal years beginning or after July 1, 2020.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/12/2012). The amendment to this statute in 2011 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 2, takes effect on July 12, 2012. The effective date of that amendment was subject to a contingency, but the contingency was removed in 2012. Section 5 of 2012 Ky. Acts ch. 139, which is effective July 12, 2012, repeals 2011 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 4, which established the contingency. Section 6 of 2012 Ky. Acts ch. 139 states, "KRS 186.162 and 186.1722, as created or amended by 2011 Ky. Acts ch. 10, relating to an I Support Veterans special license plate, shall be effective on the normal effective date for the legislation enacted at the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly." The normal effective date for that 2012 legislation is July 12, 2012.

Legislative Research Commission Note (6/20/2005). Under the authority of KRS 7.135(1)(h), during codification a manifest clerical or typographical error occurring in 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 133, sec. 1(2)(c)2., has been corrected by changing "OSF" to "SF" to conform with definitions for that section found in Section 1(1)(c) of that Act.