

1 AN ACT relating to personalized license plates.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 186.174 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) For purposes of this section, "personalized license plate" means a license plate  
5 issued with personal letters or numbers significant to the applicant and it also means  
6 a license plate that is issued under this section and has been combined with a special  
7 license plate.

8 (2) Any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle that is required to be registered under the  
9 provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or any owner or lessee of a  
10 motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2) may  
11 obtain a personalized license plate by applying for a personalized license plate in  
12 the office of the county clerk and upon payment of the fee required in KRS 186.162.  
13 A person initially applying for a personalized license plate shall submit the  
14 application and appropriate SF fee in person to the county clerk, but may submit the  
15 annual application to renew the personalized license plate and entire fee required in  
16 KRS 186.162 by mail to the county clerk.

17 **(3) (a) For personalized license plates already issued on the effective date of this**  
18 **Act, renewal** applications and fees~~[ for personalized license plates pursuant to~~  
19 ~~this section]~~ must be received by the Transportation Cabinet on or before  
20 September 1, 2018. **Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,**  
21 **personalized license plates that expire December 31, 2018, and are renewed**  
22 **under this subsection, shall then expire on the last day of the birth month of**  
23 **the applicant in 2019 and in each succeeding year.**

24 **(b) Personalized license plates that expire December 31, 2018 and are renewed**  
25 **under this subsection by individuals whose birth months are in January,**  
26 **February, and March shall expire April 30, 2019, and then shall expire on**  
27 **the last day of the birth month of the applicant in each succeeding year.**

1 **(4) Personalized license plates issued after the effective date of this Act shall expire**  
 2 **on the last day of the birth month of the applicant. Renewal applications and fees**  
 3 **for personalized license plates pursuant to this section must be received by the**  
 4 **Transportation Cabinet at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of**  
 5 **expiration**~~[preceding the year that the plate or renewal is to be issued].~~

6 **(5)** A personalized license plate shall be replaced **on the same schedule as regular**  
 7 **issue license plates unless it is damaged or unreadable**~~[annually unless the~~  
 8 ~~applicant chooses to receive a renewal registration decal].~~ A county clerk shall  
 9 immediately forward the application and the fee required in KRS 186.162 for a  
 10 personalized license plate to the Transportation Cabinet.~~[Personalized plates issued~~  
 11 ~~under this section expire December 31 each year.]~~ The initial fee for a personalized  
 12 license plate that has been combined with special license plate shall be as  
 13 established in KRS 186.162(3).

14 **(6)**~~[(3)]~~ A personalized plate shall not be issued that would conflict with or duplicate  
 15 the alphabetical-numerical system used for regular license plates or any other  
 16 license plates issued in the Commonwealth, and shall not contain a combination of  
 17 more than six (6) letters of the alphabet and Arabic numerals, including spaces. A  
 18 personalized plate shall not be issued if the cabinet determines the request fails to  
 19 comply with the conditions specified in KRS 186.164(9)(c) to (g). The owner or  
 20 lessee shall submit an application and fee to renew a personalized license plate  
 21 pursuant to the provisions of~~[subsection (2) of]~~ this section. Once an applicant  
 22 obtains a personalized plate, he or she will have first priority on that plate for each  
 23 of the following years that he or she makes timely and proper application.

24 ➔Section 2. KRS 186.164 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) The SF portion of the fee required under KRS 186.162 shall include the fee to  
 26 reflectorize all license plates under KRS 186.240. All EF fees required under KRS  
 27 186.162 shall be collected at the time of an initial or renewal application by the

1 county clerk who shall forward the EF fee to the cabinet. The cabinet shall remit EF  
2 fees to the group or organization identified in KRS 186.162 on a quarterly basis.  
3 The cabinet may retain any investment income earned from holding EF fees  
4 designated to be remitted under this subsection to offset administrative costs  
5 incurred by the cabinet in the administration of EF fees.

6 (2) A special license plate shall be the color and design selected by the group or  
7 organization identified in subsection (13) of this section, contingent upon the  
8 approval of the Transportation Cabinet. In addition to the design selected for a  
9 special license plate, the name "Kentucky," an annual renewal decal, and any  
10 combination of letters or numerals required by the cabinet in the design shall also  
11 appear on the plate.

12 (3) Except as provided in KRS 186.162, the total initial fee for a special license plate  
13 created under this chapter shall be twenty-eight dollars (\$28), of which the  
14 Transportation Cabinet shall receive twenty-five dollars (\$25) and the county clerk  
15 shall receive three dollars (\$3), and the total renewal fee shall be fifteen dollars  
16 (\$15), of which the Transportation Cabinet shall receive twelve dollars (\$12) and  
17 the county clerk shall receive three dollars (\$3). The twenty-five dollar (\$25) initial  
18 fee and twelve dollar (\$12) renewal fee received by the Transportation Cabinet  
19 under this subsection shall include an applicant's registration fee required under  
20 KRS 186.050.

21 (4) An actual metal special license plate shall be issued on the same schedule as regular  
22 license plates are issued under KRS 186.240. The cabinet shall have the discretion  
23 to extend the time period that will exist between the date a metal special license  
24 plate is issued and the date that regular plates are issued under KRS 186.240. A  
25 renewal registration decal shall be issued all other years during the owner's or  
26 lessee's birth month, except as provided in KRS 186.041(2) ~~and~~ 186.042(5) ~~and~~  
27 ~~186.174(2)}~~. A person seeking a special license plate for a vehicle provided as part

- 1 of the person's occupation shall conform to the requirements of KRS 186.050(14).
- 2 (5) (a) If a special license plate issued under this chapter deteriorates to the point that  
3 the lettering, numbering, or images on the face of the plate are not legible, the  
4 plate shall be replaced free of charge, if the owner or lessee has not transferred  
5 the vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.
- 6 (b) If a special license plate issued under this chapter is lost, stolen, or damaged in  
7 an accident, the county clerk shall issue a new plate upon payment of a three  
8 dollar (\$3) county clerk fee, if the owner or lessee has not transferred the  
9 vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.
- 10 (6) Upon the sale, transfer, or termination of a lease of a vehicle with any special  
11 license plate issued under this chapter, the owner or lessee shall remove the special  
12 plate and return it and the certificate of registration to the county clerk. The county  
13 clerk shall reissue the owner or lessee a regular license plate and a certificate of  
14 registration upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee. If the owner or  
15 lessee requests, the county clerk shall reissue the special plate upon payment of a  
16 three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee for use on any other vehicle of the same  
17 classification and category owned, leased, or acquired by the person during the  
18 current licensing period. If the owner or lessee has the special plate reissued to a  
19 vehicle which has been previously registered in this state, the regular license plate  
20 that is being replaced shall be returned to the county clerk who shall forward the  
21 plate to the Transportation Cabinet.
- 22 (7) A special license plate may be issued to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle that  
23 is required to be registered under KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), except a special  
24 license plate shall not be issued to a taxicab, limousine, or U-Drive-It registered and  
25 licensed under this chapter or KRS Chapter 281. A person applying for a special  
26 license plate shall apply in the office of the county clerk in the county of the  
27 person's residence, except as provided in KRS 186.168(3). All special license plates

1 issued under this chapter may be combined with a personalized license plate under  
2 the provisions of KRS 186.174. The fee to combine a special license plate with a  
3 personalized license plate shall be as established in KRS 186.162(3).

4 (8) Within thirty (30) days of termination from election to, appointment to, or  
5 membership with any group or organization, an applicant to whom a special license  
6 plate was issued under this chapter shall return the special license plate to the  
7 county clerk of the county of his or her residence, unless the person is merely  
8 changing his or her status with the group or organization to retired.

9 (9) A group wanting to create a special license plate that is not authorized under this  
10 chapter on June 20, 2005, shall comply with the following conditions before being  
11 eligible to apply for a special license plate:

12 (a) The group shall be nonprofit and based, headquartered, or have a chapter in  
13 Kentucky;

14 (b) The group may be organized for, but shall not be restricted to, social, civic, or  
15 entertainment purposes;

16 (c) The group, or the group's lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on  
17 the license plate, if created, shall not discriminate against any race, color,  
18 religion, sex, or national origin, and shall not be construed, as determined by  
19 the cabinet, as an attempt to victimize or intimidate any person due to the  
20 person's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;

21 (d) The group shall not be a political party and shall not have been created  
22 primarily to promote a specific political belief;

23 (e) The group shall not have as its primary purpose the promotion of any specific  
24 faith, religion, or antireligion;

25 (f) The name of the group shall not be the name of a special product or brand  
26 name, and shall not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as promoting a  
27 product or brand name; and

- 1 (g) The group's lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on the license  
2 plate, if created, shall not be obscene, as determined by the cabinet.
- 3 (10) If the cabinet denies to issue a group a special license plate based upon the  
4 conditions specified in subsection (9) of this section, the cabinet shall, immediately  
5 upon denying to issue a group a special license plate, notify in writing the  
6 chairperson of both the House and Senate standing committees on transportation of  
7 the denial and the reasons upon which the cabinet based the denial. A person  
8 seeking a personalized license plate under KRS 186.174 shall be subject to the  
9 conditions specified in subsection (9)(c) to (g) of this section.
- 10 (11) If the cabinet approves a request for a special license plate, the cabinet shall begin  
11 designing and printing the plate after the group collects a minimum of nine hundred  
12 (900) applications with each application being accompanied by a twenty-five dollar  
13 (\$25) state fee. The applications and accompanying fee shall be submitted to the  
14 cabinet at one (1) time as a whole and shall not be submitted individually or  
15 intermittently.
- 16 (12) An initial applicant for, or an applicant renewing, his or her registration for a special  
17 license plate may, at the time of application, make a voluntary contribution that the  
18 county clerk shall forward to the cabinet. The entity that sponsors a special plate  
19 established by the process outlined in this section may set a requested donation  
20 amount, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10), that will automatically be added to the cost  
21 of registration or renewal, unless the individual registering or renewing the vehicle  
22 registration opts out of contributing that recommended amount. The cabinet shall,  
23 on an annual basis, remit the voluntary contributions to the appropriate group  
24 identified to be used for the declared purpose stated under subsection (13) of this  
25 section. The cabinet may retain any investment income earned from holding  
26 voluntary contributions designated to be remitted under this subsection to offset  
27 administrative costs incurred by the cabinet in the administration of the

1 contributions. Any group or organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under  
2 KRS 186.162 shall submit the information required under subsection (13)(a) and (c)  
3 of this section to the Transportation Cabinet within thirty (30) days of June 20,  
4 2005.

5 (13) If a group wants to receive a donation when the group or organization's special  
6 license plate is initially purchased or renewed under subsection (12) of this section,  
7 the group shall, at the time the nine hundred (900) applications are submitted to the  
8 Transportation Cabinet, also submit a notarized affidavit to the cabinet attesting to:

9 (a) The name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization. If the  
10 group or organization does not have its headquarters in the Commonwealth,  
11 then the name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization's  
12 Kentucky state chapter shall be required. The names of the officers of the  
13 group or organization shall also be required. If the entity receiving funds  
14 under subsection (12) of this section is not a state governmental agency, a  
15 program unit within a state governmental agency, or is a group or organization  
16 that does not have a statewide chapter, then an extra donation for use by the  
17 group or organization shall be prohibited;

18 (b) The amount of the monetary donation the group wants to receive when a  
19 person purchases the group or organization's special license plate; and

20 (c) The purpose for which the donated funds will be used by the group or  
21 organization. Donated funds shall not be limited for use by members of the  
22 group or organization, and shall not be used for administrative or personnel  
23 costs of the group or organization.

24 (14) All funds received by a group or organization under subsection (12) of this section  
25 shall be deposited into an account separate from all other accounts the group or  
26 organization may have, and the account shall be audited yearly at the expense of the  
27 group or organization. The completed audit shall be forwarded to the Transportation

1 Cabinet in Frankfort. One hundred percent (100%) of the funds received by a group  
2 or organization under subsection (12) of this section shall be used for the express  
3 purpose identified by the group in subsection (13) of this section. Any group or  
4 organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under KRS 186.162 shall comply  
5 with the provisions of this subsection.

6 (15) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative  
7 regulations under KRS Chapter 13A to establish additional rules to implement the  
8 issuance of special license plates issued under this chapter, including but not limited  
9 to:

10 (a) Documentation that will be required to accompany an application for a special  
11 license plate to provide proof of:

- 12 1. Election to the United States Congress or the Kentucky General  
13 Assembly;
- 14 2. Election or appointment to the Kentucky Court of Justice;
- 15 3. Membership in a Masonic Order, Fraternal Order of Police, or  
16 emergency management organization;
- 17 4. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Mothers of America;
- 18 5. Eligibility as a father for associate membership in the Gold Star Mothers  
19 of America;
- 20 6. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Wives of America;
- 21 7. Ownership of an amateur radio operator license;
- 22 8. Receipt of the Silver Star Medal;
- 23 9. Receipt of the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor;
- 24 10. Eligibility for a Gold Star Siblings license plate for a person whose  
25 sibling died while serving the country in the United States Armed  
26 Forces. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "sibling" means a sibling  
27 by blood, a sibling by half-blood, a sibling by adoption, or a stepsibling;

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or

11. 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 (9) 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.