

1 AN ACT relating to military license plates.

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

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

4 (1) As used in this section and in KRS 186.043, 186.164, 186.166, 186.1722, and
5 186.174:

6 (a) "Special license plate" means a unique license plate issued under this chapter
7 to a group or organization that readily identifies the operator of the motor
8 vehicle or motorcycle bearing the plate as a member of a group or
9 organization, or a supporter of the work, goals, or mission of a group or
10 organization. The term shall not include regular license plates issued under
11 KRS 186.240;

12 (b) "Street rod" means a modernized private passenger motor vehicle
13 manufactured prior to the year 1949, or designed or manufactured to resemble
14 a vehicle manufactured prior to 1949;

15 (c) "SF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license
16 plate that is dedicated for use by the Transportation Cabinet;

17 (d) "CF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license
18 plate that is dedicated for use by a county clerk. If a CF amount is charged for
19 a license plate listed in this section, the applicant for that plate shall also pay
20 the fees identified in KRS 186.040(6). If a CF amount is not charged, the
21 applicant shall not be required to pay those fees; and

22 (e) "EF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license
23 plate that is mandated by this chapter to be dedicated for use by a particular
24 group or organization.

25 (2) The initial purchase fee and renewal fee for a special license plate created under this
26 chapter shall be as established in this subsection and includes the name of group or
27 organization and the total initial and renewal fee required for the plate. The amount

1 in parentheses indicates how the total fee is required to be divided:

2 (a) Disabled veterans who receive assistance to purchase a vehicle from the
3 United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, veterans declared by the
4 United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be one hundred percent
5 (100%) service-connected disabled, and recipients of the Congressional Medal
6 of Honor:

7 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).

8 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).

9 (b) Former prisoners of war and survivors of Pearl Harbor:

10 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
11 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

12 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

13 (c) Members of the Kentucky National Guard and recipients of the Purple Heart:

14 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
15 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

16 2. Renewal Fee: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
17 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

18 (d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary
19 members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast
20 Guard; Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August
21 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, *the Air Medal*, or the Bronze
22 Star Medal awarded for valor; persons who wish to receive Gold Star
23 Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates beyond the
24 two (2) exempted from fees under KRS 186.041(6); individuals eligible for a
25 special military service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8); and
26 disabled veterans who have been declared to be between fifty percent (50%)
27 and ninety-nine percent (99%) service-connected disabled by the United

- 1 States Department of Veterans' Affairs:
- 2 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 3 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 4 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 5 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 6 (e) Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force
- 7 Cross:
- 8 1. Initial Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 9 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 10 (f) Disabled license plates:
- 11 1. Initial Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 12 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 13 (g) Historic vehicles:
- 14 1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$56 (\$50 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 15 2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.
- 16 (h) Members of Congress:
- 17 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 18 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 19 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 20 (i) Firefighters:
- 21 1. Initial Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 22 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 23 (j) Emergency management:
- 24 1. Initial Fee: \$31 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 25 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 26 (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
- 27 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky

- 1 FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- 2 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 3 FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- 4 (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
- 5 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law
- 6 Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 7 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law
- 8 Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 9 (m) Personalized plates:
- 10 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 11 2. Renewal Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 12 (n) Street rods:
- 13 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 14 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 15 (o) Nature plates:
- 16 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky
- 17 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- 18 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky
- 19 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- 20 (p) Amateur radio:
- 21 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 22 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 23 (q) Kentucky General Assembly:
- 24 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 25 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 26 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 27 (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:

- 1 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 2 2. Renewal Fee: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 3 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 4 (s) Masons:
- 5 1. Initial Fee: \$31 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 6 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 7 (t) Collegiate plates:
- 8 1. Initial Fee: \$53 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
- 9 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
- 10 plate).
- 11 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
- 12 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
- 13 plate).
- 14 (u) Independent Colleges:
- 15 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
- 16 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the
- 17 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- 18 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
- 19 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the
- 20 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- 21 (v) Child Victims:
- 22 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims'
- 23 trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- 24 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the child victims'
- 25 trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- 26 (w) Kentucky Horse Council:
- 27 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky

- 1 Horse Council).
- 2 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky
- 3 Horse Council).
- 4 (x) Ducks Unlimited:
- 5 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
- 6 Unlimited).
- 7 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
- 8 Unlimited).
- 9 (y) Spay neuter:
- 10 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control
- 11 and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- 12 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the animal control
- 13 and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- 14 (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses:
- 15 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
- 16 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
- 17 3. A person may receive a maximum of two (2) plates under this paragraph
- 18 free of charge and may purchase additional plates for fees as established
- 19 in subsection (2)(d) of this section.
- 20 (aa) I Support Veterans:
- 21 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 22 Department of Veterans' Affairs).
- 23 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky
- 24 Department of Veterans' Affairs).
- 25 (ab) Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Sons, or Gold Star Daughters:
- 26 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
- 27 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

1 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
2 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

3 (ac) Special license plates established between June 20, 2005, and June 27, 2019:

- 4 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).
- 5 2. Renewal Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).

6 (ad) Special license plates established under KRS 186.164 on or after June 27,
7 2019:

- 8 1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$24 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).
- 9 2. Renewal Fee \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).

10 (3) Any special license plate may be combined with a personalized license plate for a
11 twenty-five dollar (\$25) state fee in addition to all other fees for the particular
12 special license plate established in this section and in KRS 186.164(3). The twenty-
13 five dollar (\$25) fee required under this subsection shall be divided between the
14 cabinet and the county clerk of the county where the applicant is applying for the
15 license plate with the cabinet receiving twenty dollars (\$20) and the county clerk
16 receiving five dollars (\$5).

17 (4) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be
18 eligible to receive special license plates issued under this section or established
19 under the provisions of KRS 186.164 after the cabinet has received three hundred
20 (300) applications and initial state fees from the sponsoring organization.
21 Applicants for a special license plate for a motorcycle shall be required to pay the
22 fee for a special plate as prescribed in this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid
23 for the special plate for a motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required
24 under KRS 186.050(2).

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

26 (1) The SF portion of the fee required under KRS 186.162 shall include the fee to
27 reflectorize all license plates under KRS 186.240. All EF fees required under KRS

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

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

13 (3) An actual metal special license plate shall be issued on the same schedule as regular
14 license plates are issued under KRS 186.240. The cabinet shall have the discretion
15 to extend the time period that will exist between the date a metal special license
16 plate is issued and the date that regular plates are issued under KRS 186.240. A
17 renewal registration decal shall be issued all other years during the owner's or
18 lessee's birth month, except as provided in KRS 186.041(2) and 186.042(5). A
19 person seeking a special license plate for a vehicle provided as part of the person's
20 occupation shall conform to the requirements of KRS 186.050(14).

21 (4) (a) If a special license plate issued under this chapter deteriorates to the point that
22 the lettering, numbering, or images on the face of the plate are not legible, the
23 plate shall be replaced free of charge, if the owner or lessee has not transferred
24 the vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.

25 (b) If a special license plate issued under this chapter is lost, stolen, or damaged in
26 an accident, the county clerk shall issue a new plate upon payment of a three
27 dollar (\$3) county clerk fee, if the owner or lessee has not transferred the

- 1 vehicle to which the plate was issued during the current licensing period.
- 2 (5) Upon the sale, transfer, or termination of a lease of a vehicle with any special
3 license plate issued under this chapter, the owner or lessee shall remove the special
4 plate and return it and the certificate of registration to the county clerk. The county
5 clerk shall reissue the owner or lessee a regular license plate and a certificate of
6 registration upon payment of a three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee. If the owner or
7 lessee requests, the county clerk shall reissue the special plate upon payment of a
8 three dollar (\$3) county clerk fee for use on any other vehicle of the same
9 classification and category owned, leased, or acquired by the person during the
10 current licensing period. If the owner or lessee has the special plate reissued to a
11 vehicle which has been previously registered in this state, the regular license plate
12 that is being replaced shall be returned to the county clerk who shall forward the
13 plate to the Transportation Cabinet.
- 14 (6) A special license plate may be issued to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle that
15 is required to be registered under KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), except a special
16 license plate shall not be issued to a taxicab, limousine, or U-Drive-It registered and
17 licensed under this chapter or KRS Chapter 281. A person applying for a special
18 license plate shall apply in the office of the county clerk in the county of the
19 person's residence, except as provided in KRS 186.168(3). All special license plates
20 issued under this chapter may be combined with a personalized license plate under
21 the provisions of KRS 186.174. The fee to combine a special license plate with a
22 personalized license plate shall be as established in KRS 186.162(3).
- 23 (7) Within thirty (30) days of termination from election to, appointment to, or
24 membership with any group or organization, an applicant to whom a special license
25 plate was issued under this chapter shall return the special license plate to the
26 county clerk of the county of his or her residence, unless the person is merely
27 changing his or her status with the group or organization to retired.

- 1 (8) A group wanting to create a special license plate that is not authorized under this
2 chapter on June 27, 2019, shall comply with the following conditions before being
3 eligible to apply for a special license plate:
- 4 (a) The group shall be nonprofit and based, headquartered, or have a chapter in
5 Kentucky;
 - 6 (b) The group may be organized for, but shall not be restricted to, social, civic, or
7 entertainment purposes;
 - 8 (c) The message to be placed on the license plate, if created, shall not
9 discriminate against any race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and shall
10 not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as an attempt to victimize or
11 intimidate any person due to the person's race, color, religion, sex, or national
12 origin;
 - 13 (d) The plate shall not represent a political party and shall not have been created
14 primarily to promote a specific political belief;
 - 15 (e) The plate shall not have as its primary purpose the promotion of any specific
16 faith, religion, or antireligion;
 - 17 (f) The plate shall not be the name of a special product or brand name, and shall
18 not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as promoting a product or
19 brand name; and
 - 20 (g) The plate's lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on the license plate,
21 if created, shall not be obscene, as determined by the cabinet.
- 22 (9) If the cabinet denies to issue a group a special license plate based upon the
23 conditions specified in subsection (8) of this section, the cabinet shall, immediately
24 upon denying to issue a group a special license plate, notify in writing the
25 chairperson of both the House and Senate standing committees on transportation of
26 the denial and the reasons upon which the cabinet based the denial.
- 27 (10) If the cabinet approves a request for a special license plate, the cabinet shall begin

1 designing and printing the plate after:

2 (a) The group collects a minimum of nine hundred (900) applications with each
3 application being accompanied by a fee as set forth in KRS 186.162. The
4 applications and accompanying fee shall be submitted to the cabinet at one (1)
5 time as a whole and shall not be submitted individually or intermittently; and

6 (b) The group submits to the cabinet the programming and production costs for
7 the plate.

8 (11) A group that is approved for a special license plate shall maintain a minimum
9 number of five hundred (500) registrations annually for the cabinet to continue
10 production of the plate.

11 (12) An initial applicant for, or an applicant renewing, his or her registration for a special
12 license plate shall, at the time of application, make a contribution that the county
13 clerk shall forward to the cabinet as set forth in KRS 186.162. The cabinet shall, on
14 an annual basis, remit the contributions to the appropriate group identified to be
15 used for the declared purpose stated under subsection (13) of this section. The
16 cabinet may retain any investment income earned from holding contributions
17 designated to be remitted under this subsection to offset administrative costs
18 incurred by the cabinet in the administration of the contributions. Any group or
19 organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under KRS 186.162 shall maintain
20 the information required under subsection (13)(a) and (c) of this section with the
21 Transportation Cabinet.

22 (13) The group shall, at the time the nine hundred (900) applications are submitted to the
23 Transportation Cabinet, also submit a notarized affidavit to the cabinet attesting to:

24 (a) The name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization. If the
25 group or organization does not have its headquarters in the Commonwealth,
26 then the name, address, and telephone number for the group or organization's
27 Kentucky state chapter shall be required. The names of the officers of the

1 group or organization shall also be required. If the entity receiving funds
2 under subsection (12) of this section is not a state governmental agency, a
3 program unit within a state governmental agency, or is a group or organization
4 that does not have a statewide chapter, then a donation for use by the group or
5 organization shall be prohibited;

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

8 (c) The purpose for which the donated funds will be used by the group or
9 organization. Donated funds shall not be limited for use by members of the
10 group or organization, and shall not be used for administrative or personnel
11 costs of the group or organization.

12 (14) All funds received by a group or organization under subsection (12) of this section
13 shall be deposited into an account separate from all other accounts the group or
14 organization may have, and the account shall be audited yearly at the expense of the
15 group or organization. The completed audit shall be forwarded to the Transportation
16 Cabinet in Frankfort. One hundred percent (100%) of the funds received by a group
17 or organization under subsection (12) of this section shall be used for the express
18 purpose identified by the group in subsection (13) of this section. Any group or
19 organization that receives a mandatory EF fee under KRS 186.162 shall comply
20 with the provisions of this subsection.

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

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

27 1. Election to the United States Congress or the Kentucky General

- 1 Assembly;
- 2 2. Election or appointment to the Kentucky Court of Justice;
- 3 3. Membership in a Masonic Order, Fraternal Order of Police, or
- 4 emergency management organization;
- 5 4. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Mothers of America;
- 6 5. Eligibility as a father for associate membership in the Gold Star Mothers
- 7 of America;
- 8 6. Eligibility for membership in the Gold Star Wives of America;
- 9 7. Ownership of an amateur radio operator license;
- 10 8. Receipt of the Silver Star Medal;
- 11 9. Receipt of the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor;
- 12 10. **Receipt of the Air Medal;**
- 13 **11.** Eligibility for a Gold Star Siblings license plate for a person whose
- 14 sibling died while serving the country in the United States Armed
- 15 Forces. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "sibling" means a sibling
- 16 by blood, a sibling by half-blood, a sibling by adoption, or a stepsibling;
- 17 or
- 18 **12[11].** Eligibility for a Gold Star Sons or Gold Star Daughters license
- 19 plate for a person whose parent or stepparent died while serving the
- 20 country in the United States Armed Forces;
- 21 (b) The time schedule permissible for a group or organization to request a design
- 22 change for the special license plate; and
- 23 (c) The procedures for review of proposed license plates and the standards by
- 24 which proposed special license plates are approved or rejected in accordance
- 25 with subsection (10) of this section.
- 26 (16) Any individual, group, or organization that fails to audit any funds received under
- 27 this chapter, or that intentionally uses any funds received in any way other than

1 attested to under subsection (13) of this section or for administrative or personnel
2 costs in violation of subsection (13) of this section, shall be guilty of a Class D
3 felony and upon conviction shall, in addition to being subject to criminal penalties,
4 be assessed a mandatory five thousand dollar (\$5,000) fine.

5 ➔Section 3. KRS 186.166 is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The Transportation Cabinet shall, unless directed otherwise by the General
7 Assembly, perpetually produce the following special license plates: military license
8 plates, U.S. Congressional license plates, firefighter license plates, emergency
9 management license plates, Fraternal Order of Police license plates, Law
10 Enforcement Memorial license plates, street rod license plates, nature license plates,
11 amateur radio license plates, Kentucky General Assembly license plates, Kentucky
12 Court of Justice license plates, Masonic Order license plates, collegiate license
13 plates, independent college and university license plates, child victims' trust fund
14 license plates, Kentucky Horse Council license plates, Ducks Unlimited license
15 plates, Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, and Spouses license plates, Gold Star Siblings,
16 Sons, and Daughters license plates, Silver Star Medal license plates, Bronze Star
17 Medal license plates, Air Medal license plates, spay neuter license plates, service
18 academy license plates, and I Support Veterans license plates.

19 (2) The design of the plates identified for perpetual production under this section may
20 be revised upon request of a group or organization requesting a design revision
21 under the provisions of KRS 186.164(15).

22 (3) (a) The design of a Purple Heart license plate shall not include any representation
23 of the word "Kentucky" that is a registered trademark or slogan which appears
24 on a general issue license plate.

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

27 ➔Section 4. This Act shall take effect January 1, 2022.