

1 AN ACT relating to personalized motor vehicle 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 ***or recreational vehicle*** that is required to be
9 registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), ~~(4)(a)~~, or ***(11), or***
10 any owner or lessee of a motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions
11 of KRS 186.050(2) may obtain a personalized license plate by applying for a
12 personalized license plate in the office of the county clerk and upon payment of the
13 fee required in KRS 186.162. A person initially applying for a personalized license
14 plate shall submit the application and appropriate SF fee in person to the county
15 clerk, but may submit the annual application to renew the personalized license plate
16 and entire fee required in KRS 186.162 by mail to the county clerk.
- 17 (3) Personalized license plates shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the
18 applicant.
- 19 (4) A personalized license plate shall be replaced on the same schedule as regular issue
20 license plates unless it is damaged or unreadable. A county clerk shall immediately
21 forward the application and the fee required in KRS 186.162 for a personalized
22 license plate to the Transportation Cabinet. The initial fee for a personalized license
23 plate that has been combined with special license plate shall be as established in
24 KRS 186.162(3).
- 25 (5) (a) A personalized plate shall not be issued that would conflict with or duplicate
26 the alphabetical-numerical system used for regular license plates or any other
27 license plates issued in the Commonwealth, and shall not contain a

1 combination of more than six (6) letters of the alphabet and Arabic numerals,
2 including spaces.

3 (b) A personalized plate shall not be issued if the cabinet determines the request
4 fails to comply with the following conditions:

- 5 1. The message to be placed on the license plate, if created, shall not
6 discriminate against any race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and
7 shall not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as an attempt to
8 victimize or intimidate any person due to the person's race, color,
9 religion, sex, or national origin;
- 10 2. The plate shall not represent a political party and shall not have been
11 created primarily to promote a specific political belief;
- 12 3. The plate shall not have as its primary purpose the promotion of any
13 specific faith, religion, or antireligion;
- 14 4. The plate shall not be the name of a special product or brand name, and
15 shall not be construed, as determined by the cabinet, as promoting a
16 product or brand name; and
- 17 5. The plate's lettering or message to be placed on the license plate, if
18 created, shall not be obscene, as determined by the cabinet.

19 (c) The owner or lessee shall submit an application and fee to renew a
20 personalized license plate pursuant to the provisions of this section. Once an
21 applicant obtains a personalized plate, he or she will have first priority on that
22 plate for each of the following years that he or she makes timely and proper
23 application.

24 ➔Section 2. KRS 186.162 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) As used in this section and in KRS 186.043, 186.164, 186.166, 186.1722, and
26 186.174:

27 (a) "Special license plate" means a unique license plate issued under this chapter

1 to a group or organization that readily identifies the operator of the motor
2 vehicle or motorcycle bearing the plate as a member of a group or
3 organization, or a supporter of the work, goals, or mission of a group or
4 organization. The term shall not include regular license plates issued under
5 KRS 186.240;

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

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

11 (d) "CF" means the county clerk's fee for issuing a motor vehicle registration as
12 established under KRS 186.040(1). If a CF amount is charged for a license
13 plate listed in this section, the applicant for that plate shall also pay the fees
14 identified in KRS 186.040(6). If a CF amount is not charged, the applicant
15 shall not be required to pay those fees; and

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

19 (2) The initial purchase fee and renewal fee for a special license plate created under this
20 chapter shall be as established in this subsection and includes the name of group or
21 organization and the total initial and renewal fee required for the plate. The amount
22 in parentheses indicates how the total fee is required to be divided:

23 (a) Disabled veterans who receive assistance to purchase a vehicle from the
24 United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, veterans declared by the
25 United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be one hundred percent
26 (100%) service-connected disabled, and recipients of the Congressional Medal
27 of Honor:

- 1 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
- 2 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
- 3 (b) Former prisoners of war and survivors of Pearl Harbor:
- 4 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 5 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 6 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 7 (c) Members of the Kentucky National Guard and recipients of the Purple Heart:
- 8 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 9 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 10 2. Renewal Fee: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 11 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 12 (d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary
- 13 members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast
- 14 Guard; Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August
- 15 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross,
- 16 the Air Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge, or the
- 17 Bronze Star Medal; persons who wish to receive Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star
- 18 Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates beyond the two (2) exempted
- 19 from fees under KRS 186.041(6); individuals eligible for a special military
- 20 service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8); and disabled veterans
- 21 who have been declared to be between fifty percent (50%) and ninety-nine
- 22 percent (99%) service-connected disabled by the United States Department of
- 23 Veterans' Affairs:
- 24 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 25 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 26 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 27 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

- 1 (e) Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force
2 Cross:
- 3 1. Initial Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 4 2. Renewal Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 5 (f) Disabled license plates:
- 6 1. Initial Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 7 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 8 (g) Historic vehicles:
- 9 1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$56 (\$50 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 10 2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.
- 11 (h) Members of Congress:
- 12 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 13 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
14 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 15 (i) Firefighters:
- 16 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
17 Firefighters Association).
 - 18 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
19 Firefighters Association).
- 20 (j) Emergency management:
- 21 1. Initial Fee: \$31 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 22 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 23 (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
- 24 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
25 FOP Death Benefit Fund).
 - 26 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
27 FOP Death Benefit Fund).

- 1 (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
- 2 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law
- 3 Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 4 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law
- 5 Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 6 (m) Personalized plates for a motor vehicle that is required to be registered
- 7 under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or a motorcycle
- 8 required to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2):
- 9 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 10 2. Renewal Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 11 (n) Street rods:
- 12 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 13 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 14 (o) Nature plates:
- 15 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky
- 16 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- 17 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky
- 18 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- 19 (p) Amateur radio:
- 20 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 21 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 22 (q) Kentucky General Assembly:
- 23 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 24 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 25 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 26 (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:
- 27 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

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

1 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

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

4 (ac) POW/MIA Awareness:

5 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program
6 trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

7 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
8 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

9 (ad) Personalized plates for a recreational vehicle that is required to be
10 registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(11):

11 1. Initial Fee: \$51 (\$45 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

12 2. Renewal Fee: \$51 (\$45 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

13 (ae) Special license plates established under KRS 186.164:

14 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).

15 2. Renewal Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF).

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

23 (4) (a) A sponsoring organization of any special license plate issued under this
24 section or any special license plate established under the provisions of KRS
25 186.164 may petition the cabinet for the production of that special license
26 plate for motorcycles.

27 (b) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be

1 eligible to receive special license plates approved by the cabinet under
2 paragraph (a) of this subsection. Applicants for a special license plate for a
3 motorcycle shall be required to pay the fee for a special plate as prescribed in
4 this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid for the special plate for a
5 motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required under KRS
6 186.050(2).