

1 AN ACT relating to special 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 county clerk's fee for issuing a motor vehicle registration as
18 established under KRS 186.040(1). If a CF amount is charged for a license
19 plate listed in this section, the applicant for that plate shall also pay the fees
20 identified in KRS 186.040(6). If a CF amount is not charged, the applicant
21 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
6 Medal 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: \$11 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
13 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

14 (c) ~~Members of the Kentucky National Guard and~~ Recipients of the Purple
15 Heart:

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

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

20 (d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; **members of the Kentucky National Guard,**
21 active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States
22 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard;
23 Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August 15,
24 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the
25 Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the
26 Combat Infantry Badge, or the Bronze Star Medal; ~~persons who wish to~~
27 ~~receive Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license~~

1 ~~plates beyond the two (2) exempted from fees under KRS 186.041(6);~~
 2 ~~individuals eligible for a special military service academy license plate under~~
 3 ~~KRS 186.041(8); individuals eligible for a special military unit license plate~~
 4 ~~under KRS 186.163; and disabled veterans who have been declared to be~~
 5 ~~between fifty percent (50%) and ninety-nine percent (99%) service-connected~~
 6 ~~disabled by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs:~~

7 1. Initial Fee: ~~\$0[\$23] (\$0[\$12] SF/\$0[\$6] CF/\$0[\$5] EF~~ to
 8 ~~the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).~~

9 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$0[\$23] (\$0[\$12] SF/\$0[\$6] CF/\$0[\$5] EF~~ to
 10 ~~the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).~~

11 (e) Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force
 12 Cross:

13 1. Initial Fee: \$6 (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

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

15 (f) Disabled license plates:

16 1. Initial Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

17 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

18 (g) Historic vehicles:

19 1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$56 (\$50 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

20 2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.

21 (h) Members of Congress:

22 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

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

25 (i) Firefighters:

26 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
 27 Firefighters Association).

- 1 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
2 Firefighters Association).
- 3 (j) Emergency management:
- 4 1. Initial Fee: \$31 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 5 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 6 (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
- 7 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
8 FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- 9 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
10 FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- 11 (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
- 12 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
13 Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 14 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
15 Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 16 (m) Personalized plates for a motor vehicle that is required to be registered under
17 the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or a motorcycle required
18 to be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2):
- 19 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 20 2. Renewal Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 21 (n) Street rods:
- 22 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 23 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).
- 24 (o) Nature plates:
- 25 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky
26 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- 27 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky

1 Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).

2 (p) Amateur radio:

3 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

4 2. Renewal Fee: \$18 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

5 (q) Kentucky General Assembly:

6 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

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

9 (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:

10 1. Initial Fee: \$43 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$0 EF).

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

13 (s) Masons:

14 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Masonic
15 Homes of Kentucky).

16 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Masonic
17 Homes of Kentucky).

18 (t) Collegiate plates:

19 1. Initial Fee: \$53 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
20 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
21 plate).

22 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
23 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
24 plate).

25 (u) Independent Colleges:

26 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
27 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the

- 1 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- 2 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
- 3 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the
- 4 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- 5 (v) Child Victims:
- 6 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims'
- 7 trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- 8 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims'
- 9 trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- 10 (w) Kentucky Horse Council:
- 11 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 12 Horse Council).
- 13 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 14 Horse Council).
- 15 (x) Ducks Unlimited:
- 16 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
- 17 Unlimited).
- 18 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
- 19 Unlimited).
- 20 (y) Spay neuter:
- 21 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control
- 22 and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- 23 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control
- 24 and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- 25 (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses:
- 26 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
- 27 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).

1 3. A person may receive a maximum of two (2) plates under this paragraph
2 free of charge and may purchase additional plates for fees as established
3 in subsection (2)(d) of this section.

4 (aa) I Support Veterans:

5 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
6 Department of Veterans' Affairs).

7 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
8 Department of Veterans' Affairs).

9 (ab) Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Sons, or Gold Star Daughters:

10 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
11 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

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

14 (ac) POW/MIA Awareness:

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

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

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

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

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

23 (ae) **Friends of Kentucky Agriculture:**

24 **1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the agricultural**
25 **program trust fund established under KRS 246.247).**

26 **2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the agricultural**
27 **program trust fund established under KRS 246.247).**

1 **(af)** Special license plates established under KRS 186.164:

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

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

4 **(ag) Persons who wish to receive Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold**
 5 **Star Spouses license plates beyond the two (2) exempted from fees under**
 6 **KRS 186.041(6):**

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

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

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

18 (4) (a) A sponsoring organization of any special license plate issued under this
 19 section or any special license plate established under the provisions of KRS
 20 186.164 may petition the cabinet for the production of that special license
 21 plate for motorcycles.

22 (b) The cabinet shall make all of the special military license plates in this section
 23 available for motorcycles owned or leased by eligible individuals.

24 (c) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be
 25 eligible to receive special license plates approved by the cabinet under
 26 paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. Applicants for a special license plate
 27 for a motorcycle shall be required to pay the fee for a special plate as

1 prescribed in this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid for the special plate
2 for a motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required under KRS
3 186.050(2).

4 (5) The Transportation Cabinet shall:

5 (a) Identify the cost of issuing a child victims' trust fund special license plate
6 under subsection (2)(v) of this section; and

7 (b) Transfer any revenue received from the initial or renewal SF fee that is in
8 excess of the cost identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the child
9 victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400.

10 ➔Section 2. KRS 186.166 is amended to read as follows:

11 (1) The Transportation Cabinet shall, unless directed otherwise by the General
12 Assembly, perpetually produce the following special license plates: military license
13 plates, military unit license plates, U.S. Congressional license plates, firefighter
14 license plates, emergency management license plates, Fraternal Order of Police
15 license plates, Law Enforcement Memorial license plates, street rod license plates,
16 nature license plates, amateur radio license plates, Kentucky General Assembly
17 license plates, Kentucky Court of Justice license plates, Masonic Order license
18 plates, collegiate license plates, independent college and university license plates,
19 child victims' trust fund license plates, Kentucky Horse Council license plates,
20 Ducks Unlimited license plates, Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, and Spouses license
21 plates, Gold Star Siblings, Sons, and Daughters license plates, Silver Star Medal
22 license plates, Legion of Merit Medal license plates, Bronze Star Medal license
23 plates, Air Medal license plates, Distinguished Flying Cross license plates, Combat
24 Action Badge license plates, Combat Infantry Badge license plates, POW/MIA
25 Awareness license plates, spay neuter license plates, service academy license plates,
26 *Friends of Kentucky Agriculture license plates*, and I Support Veterans license
27 plates.

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

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

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

9 ➔Section 3. KRS 186.041 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) Each initial and renewal application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraph
11 (a) of this section and each initial application by a person who meets the criteria of
12 paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of this section for a special military license plate shall be
13 accompanied by proof as set forth in subsection (10) of this section that the person
14 is associated with the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air
15 Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast
16 Guard, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kentucky National Guard, Merchant
17 Marines with service between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945, or Civil Air
18 Patrol in one (1) of the following ways:

19 (a) A member of the Armed Forces of the United States;

20 (b) A retired member;

21 (c) A member of the National Guard or Reserve component who has completed
22 his or her term of service, or has retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years
23 of service; or

24 (d) A veteran who received a discharge under honorable conditions, or the
25 veteran's surviving spouse, and:

26 1. Performed one hundred eighty (180) days of active-duty service;

27 2. Received an early release due to injuries or other medical condition, or

1 at the convenience of the service;

2 3. Received a hardship discharge;

3 4. Was separated or retired due to a disability; or

4 5. Was determined to have a service-connected disability incurred during
5 the enlistment.

6 (2) The member, retired member, veteran, reservist, or his or her spouse who is eligible
7 under subsection (9) of this section may purchase an unlimited number of special
8 military-related license plates described in subsection (1) of this section, annually
9 for vehicles they own or lease. A disabled veterans license plate shall expire on July
10 31.

11 (3) A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross
12 shall be eligible for a Service Cross license plate upon submission of an application
13 to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs. The recipient shall be required to
14 include with the initial application for a Service Cross license plate a copy of the
15 general order that authorized the award and the recipient's Department of Defense
16 form number 214. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall verify the
17 documentation submitted with the application for a Service Cross license plate, and
18 if the individual applying for the plate is confirmed to be a recipient of the
19 Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, the Department of
20 Veterans' Affairs shall submit the applicant's name to the Transportation Cabinet's
21 Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing not later than September 1 preceding the year
22 that the Service Cross license plate is to be initially issued or renewed. When the
23 Service Cross license plate is ready, the plate shall be sent to the county clerk in the
24 county of the applicant's residence. The Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor
25 Vehicle Licensing shall inform each applicant in writing that the Service Cross
26 license plate is ready and may be picked up at the county clerk's office. The
27 Transportation Cabinet shall prescribe the type of application form required by this

1 subsection and shall supply the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the
2 application form required by this subsection.

3 (4) A person who is a former prisoner of the enemy during World War I, World War II,
4 the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or the spouse of a deceased former prisoner
5 of war, shall be eligible for a former prisoner of war license plate by submitting
6 written proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other
7 appropriate federal agency stating the period of time the person or person's spouse
8 was a prisoner of war. If a former prisoner of war dies with a vehicle licensed as
9 authorized under this section, the person's surviving spouse may retain the license
10 plate for use on the same vehicle or on another vehicle that complies with KRS
11 186.164(7).

12 (5) A person who is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors
13 Association as being a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be eligible for a
14 Pearl Harbor license plate and shall be required to attach to the special military-
15 related license plate application written evidence from the Kentucky chapter of the
16 Pearl Harbor Survivors Association that the person:

- 17 (a) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941;
18 (b) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45
19 a.m., Hawaii time, at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a
20 distance not to exceed three (3) miles;
21 (c) Was discharged honorably from the United States Armed Forces; and
22 (d) Is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors
23 Association.

24 (6) A person who is eligible to receive a Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold
25 Star Spouses license plate under KRS 186.164(15)(a) may receive up to two (2)
26 Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates free of
27 charge and may purchase additional license plates by paying the same fee as for

1 special military-related plates issued under KRS 186.162(2)(~~ag~~)(~~d~~) annually for
2 vehicles he or she owns or leases.

3 (7) The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient, or a Kentucky National Guard
4 member or a retired member, who possessed a vehicle licensed with the Purple
5 Heart recipient special license plate or the Kentucky National Guard special license
6 plate, may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or another vehicle
7 that complies with KRS 186.164(7). The surviving spouse may renew the license
8 plate indefinitely, provided the appropriate registration fee is paid annually.

9 (8) A person who is attending or who is a graduate of the United States Air Force
10 Academy, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy,
11 the United States Coast Guard Academy, or the United States Merchant Marine
12 Academy shall be eligible for a special military service academy license plate. A
13 special military service academy license plate under this subsection shall use the
14 same plate template as the standard special military license plate under subsection
15 (1) of this section, with stickers to identify the various service academies. The
16 Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to
17 KRS Chapter 13A to establish the proof required to demonstrate current attendance
18 at or graduation from a service academy. An eligible applicant may receive up to
19 two (2) special military service academy license plates.

20 (9) (a) The legally married spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United
21 States who meets the criteria for a special military license plate under
22 subsection (1) of this section shall be eligible for a special military license
23 plate. A special military license plate under this subsection shall use the same
24 template as the standard special military license plate under subsection (1) of
25 this section, with a sticker identifying the plate as that of a military spouse.

26 (b) An applicant who is eligible for a special military license plate under this
27 subsection shall present as proof of eligibility an original or copy of his or her

1 marriage certificate establishing marriage to the member of the Armed Forces
2 of the United States and an original or copy of one (1) of the following:

- 3 1. His or her unexpired DD-1173 form; or
- 4 2. Any identification document outlined in subsection (10) of this section
5 issued to his or her spouse.

6 (10) Prior to receiving a special military-related plate requested under subsection (1) of
7 this section, the applicant shall present as proof of eligibility, an original or copy of
8 his or her:

- 9 (a) Unexpired Veteran Identification Card or Veteran Health Identification Card
10 issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- 11 (b) DD-2, DD-214, DD-256, DD-257, or NGB-22 form; or
- 12 (c) Unexpired Geneva Conventions Identification Card issued by the United
13 States Department of Defense.