

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2025 Regular2025 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #:	892	Bill #:	HB 157/HCS 1
Document ID #:	5487	Sponsor:	Rep. Ken Upchurch
Bill Title:	AN ACT relating to special license plates.		

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Other Fiscal Statement(s) that may exist: Actuarial Analysis Corrections Impact
 Health Benefit Mandate State Employee Health Plan

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

HB 157/PHS 1 would exempt the fees for initial and renewal veterans and Kentucky National Guard special license plates. Currently the fee for a veterans license plate is \$23 for initial plate and renewal. The current fee for a Kentucky National Guard license plate is \$23 for initial and \$11 for renewal. The county clerk retains \$5 for each initial or renewal veterans or Kentucky National Guard plate.

HB 157/PHS 1 would have a significant negative fiscal impact on county clerk revenues. If the plate issuance and renewal numbers for 2024 remain consistent, HB 157/PHS is expected to result in an annual estimated revenue loss of \$635,820 for the county clerks. However, the total fiscal impact on county clerk revenue would likely increase above this number due to the removal of fees. Some individuals who qualify for the free veteran plates, but usually obtain any other license plate, would likely choose the free veterans license plate going forward.

The Transportation Cabinet has provided the number of plates issued and renewed for the 2024 calendar year. The chart below shows the type of military plates and the expected loss of county clerk revenue.

<u>Type of Veterans Plate</u>	<u># of Plates Issued</u>	<u>Annual County Clerk Revenue Loss</u>
Members of the Civil Air Patrol	92	\$460
Members of the Kentucky National Guard	3126	\$15,630
Active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard	89328	\$446,640
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	525	\$2,625
Individuals eligible for a special military service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8)	94	\$470
Individuals eligible for a special military unit license plate under KRS 186.163	146	\$730
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	30087	\$150,435

Congressional Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Service Cross (Army Cross)	3492	\$17,460
Gold Star	274	\$1,370
Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945	0	\$0
Totals	127164	\$635,820

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Transportation Cabinet

Preparer: BW **Reviewer:** JB(MDA) **Date:** 2/25/25