

1 AN ACT relating to 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 manufactured by the cabinet upon an applicant's request with specific letters or
6 numbers or combinations of letters and numbers significant to the applicant.
- 7 (2) Any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle ***or recreational vehicle*** that is required to
8 be registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), ~~for (4)(a)~~, or ***(11), or***
9 any owner or lessee of a motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions
10 of KRS 186.050(2) may obtain a personalized license plate by submitting an
11 application through a Web site designated by the cabinet. The cabinet shall produce
12 the requested license plate upon approval and receipt of the fee required in
13 subsection (4) of this section for a special license plate, or the fee required in KRS
14 186.162 for a standard issue license plate.
- 15 (3) Personalized license plates shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the
16 person to whom the license plate is registered.
- 17 (4) (a) A personalized license plate shall be replaced on the same schedule as regular
18 issue license plates unless it is damaged or unreadable.
- 19 (b) A standard issued license plate may be personalized:
- 20 ***(1) For ~~the~~ [a forty three dollar (\$43)] fee established in subsection (2)(m)***
21 ***of Section 2 of this Act for a motor vehicle that is required to be***
22 ***registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or***
23 ***a motorcycle required to be registered under the provisions of KRS***
24 ***186.050(2); or***
- 25 ***(2) For the fee established in subsection (2)(ad) of Section 2 of this Act***
26 ***for a recreational vehicle that is required to be registered under the***
27 ***provisions of KRS 186.050(11)***~~[as provided in KRS 186.162(2)(m), in~~

1 ~~addition to all other fees established in this section and in KRS~~
2 ~~186.050].~~

3 (c) Any special license plate may be combined with a personalized license plate
4 for a twenty-five dollar (\$25) state fee in addition to all other fees for the
5 particular special license plate established in this section and in KRS 186.164.
6 The twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee required under this paragraph shall be
7 divided between the cabinet and the county clerk of the county where the
8 applicant resides with the cabinet receiving twenty dollars (\$20) and the
9 county clerk receiving five dollars (\$5).

10 (5) (a) A personalized plate shall not be issued that would conflict with or duplicate
11 any current issued license plate.

12 (b) A personalized plate shall not be issued if the cabinet determines:

- 13 1. The message to be placed on the license plate, if created, discriminates
14 against a race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;
- 15 2. The plate message is the name of a trademarked or copyrighted product
16 or brand name; or
- 17 3. The plate's lettering or message is obscene or profane, as determined by
18 the cabinet.

19 (c) Once an applicant obtains a personalized plate, he or she will have first
20 priority on that plate for each of the following years that he or she makes
21 timely renewal payments.

22 ➔Section 2. KRS 186.162 (Effective January 1, 2024) is amended to read as
23 follows:

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

26 (a) "Special license plate" means a unique license plate issued under this chapter
27 to a group or organization that readily identifies the operator of the motor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
- 2 (b) Former prisoners of war and survivors of Pearl Harbor:
- 3 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 4 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 5 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$11~~ [~~\$6~~] (\$0 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$5~~ [~~\$0~~] EF to the veterans'
- 6 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 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
- 15 August 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, the Distinguished Flying
- 16 Cross, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge,
- 17 or the Bronze Star Medal; persons who wish to receive Gold Star Mothers,
- 18 Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates beyond the two (2)
- 19 exempted from fees under KRS 186.041(6); individuals eligible for a special
- 20 military service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8); individuals
- 21 eligible for a special military unit license plate under KRS 186.163; and
- 22 disabled veterans who have been declared to be between fifty percent (50%)
- 23 and ninety-nine percent (99%) service-connected disabled by the United
- 24 States Department of Veterans' Affairs:
- 25 1. Initial Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'
- 26 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 27 2. Renewal Fee: \$23 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans'

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

1 FOP Death Benefit Fund).

2 (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:

- 3 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 4 Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- 5 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
- 6 Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).

7 (m) Personalized plates for a motor vehicle that is required to be registered
 8 under KRS 186.050(1), (3)(a), or (4)(a), or a motorcycle required to be
 9 registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(2):

- 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: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Masonic
- 6 Homes of Kentucky).
- 7 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Masonic
- 8 Homes of Kentucky).

9 (t) Collegiate plates:

- 10 1. Initial Fee: \$53 (\$37 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
- 11 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
- 12 plate).
- 13 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the general
- 14 scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the
- 15 plate).

16 (u) Independent Colleges:

- 17 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
- 18 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the
- 19 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- 20 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of
- 21 Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the
- 22 general scholarship funds of the Association's members).

23 (v) Child Victims:

- 24 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims'
- 25 trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- 26 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~ ~~[\$23]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~ ~~[\$5]~~ EF to the child
- 27 victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).

1 (w) Kentucky Horse Council:

2 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky
3 Horse Council).

4 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~[\$23]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$5]~~ EF to the Kentucky
5 Horse Council).

6 (x) Ducks Unlimited:

7 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
8 Unlimited).

9 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks
10 Unlimited).

11 (y) Spay neuter:

12 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control
13 and care fund established under KRS 258.119).

14 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~[\$23]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$5]~~ EF to the animal
15 control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).

16 (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses:

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

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

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

22 (aa) I Support Veterans:

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

25 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~[\$23]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$5]~~ EF to the Kentucky
26 Department of Veterans' Affairs).

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

- 1 1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
- 2 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 3 2. Renewal Fee: ~~\$28~~~~[\$23]~~ (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/~~\$10~~~~[\$5]~~ EF to the veterans'
- 4 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

5 (ac) POW/MIA Awareness:

- 6 1. Initial Fee: \$41 (\$25 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
- 7 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- 8 2. Renewal Fee: \$28 (\$12 SF/\$6 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans'
- 9 program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

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

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

14 ~~(ae)~~ Special license plates established under KRS 186.164:

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

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

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

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

3 (c) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be
4 eligible to receive special license plates approved by the cabinet under
5 paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. Applicants for a special license plate
6 for a motorcycle shall be required to pay the fee for a special plate as
7 prescribed in this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid for the special plate
8 for a motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required under KRS
9 186.050(2).

10 ➔Section 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2025.