

AN ACT relating to special Gold Star Family license plates.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 186.041 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each initial and renewal application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraph (a) of this subsection~~[section]~~ and each initial application by a person who meets the criteria of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection~~[section]~~ for a special military license plate shall be accompanied by proof that the person is associated with the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kentucky National Guard, Merchant Marines with service between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945, or Civil Air Patrol in one (1) of the following ways:
 - (a) An active component member;
 - (b) A retired member; or
 - (c) A veteran who received a discharge under honorable conditions, or the veteran's widow and:
 1. Performed twenty-four (24) months of active-duty service;
 2. Received an early release due to injuries or other medical condition, or at the convenience of the service;
 3. Received a hardship discharge;
 4. Was separated or retired due to a disability; or
 5. Was determined to have a service-connected disability incurred during the enlistment.
- (2) The member, retired member, veteran, or reservist may purchase an unlimited number of special military-related license plates described in subsection (1) of this section, annually for vehicles they own or lease. A disabled veterans license plate shall expire on July 31.

- (3) A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross shall be eligible for a Service Cross license plate upon submission of an application to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs. The recipient shall be required to include with the initial application for a Service Cross license plate a copy of the general order that authorized the award and the recipient's Department of Defense form number 214. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall verify the documentation submitted with the application for a Service Cross license plate, and if the individual applying for the plate is confirmed to be a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall submit the applicant's name to the Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing not later than September 1 preceding the year that the Service Cross license plate is to be initially issued or renewed. When the Service Cross license plate is ready, the plate shall be sent to the county clerk in the county of the applicant's residence. The Transportation Cabinet's Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing shall inform each applicant in writing that the Service Cross license plate is ready and may be picked up at the county clerk's office. The Transportation Cabinet shall prescribe the type of application form required by this subsection and shall supply the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the application form required by this subsection.
- (4) A person who is a former prisoner of the enemy during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or the spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war, shall be eligible for a former prisoner of war license plate by submitting written proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other appropriate federal agency stating the period of time the person or person's spouse was a prisoner of war. If a former prisoner of war dies with a vehicle licensed as authorized under this section, the person's surviving spouse may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or on another vehicle that complies with KRS

186.164(7).

- (5) A person who is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association as being a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor shall be eligible for a Pearl Harbor license plate and shall be required to attach to the special military-related license plate application written evidence from the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association that the person:
- (a) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941;
 - (b) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three (3) miles;
 - (c) Was discharged honorably from the United States Armed Forces; and
 - (d) Is certified by the Kentucky chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- (6) (a) A person who is eligible to receive a Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plate under KRS 186.164(15)(a) may receive up to two (2) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates free of charge and may purchase additional license plates by paying the same fee as for special military-related plates issued under KRS 186.162(2)(d) annually for vehicles he or she owns or leases.
- (b) *A person who is eligible for a Gold Star Spouse license plate who is the parent of a minor child may apply to receive a Gold Star Family license plate in lieu of a Gold Star Spouse license plate. An eligible person may receive any combination of up to two (2) Gold Star Spouse and Gold Star Family license plates free of charge, and may purchase additional plates by paying the fees referenced in paragraph (a) of this subsection.*
- (7) The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient, or a Kentucky National Guard member or a retired member, who possessed a vehicle licensed with the Purple

Heart recipient special license plate or the Kentucky National Guard special license plate, may retain the license plate for use on the same vehicle or another vehicle that complies with KRS 186.164(7). The surviving spouse may renew the license plate indefinitely, provided the appropriate registration fee is paid annually.

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

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

- (1) As used in this section and in KRS 186.043, 186.164, 186.166, 186.1722, and 186.174:
- (a) "Special license plate" means a unique license plate issued under this chapter to a group or organization that readily identifies the operator of the motor vehicle or motorcycle bearing the plate as a member of a group or organization, or a supporter of the work, goals, or mission of a group or organization. The term shall not include regular license plates issued under KRS 186.240;
- (b) "Street rod" means a modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949, or designed or manufactured to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to 1949;

- (c) "SF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is dedicated for use by the Transportation Cabinet;
 - (d) "CF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is dedicated for use by a county clerk; and
 - (e) "EF" means the portion of an initial or renewal fee to obtain a special license plate that is mandated by this chapter to be dedicated for use by a particular group or organization.
- (2) The initial purchase fee and renewal fee for a special license plate created under this chapter shall be as established in this subsection and includes the name of group or organization and the total initial and renewal fee required for the plate. The amount in parentheses indicates how the total fee is required to be divided:
- (a) Disabled veterans who receive assistance to purchase a vehicle from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, veterans declared by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disabled, and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/\$0 EF).
 - (b) Former prisoners of war and survivors of Pearl Harbor:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$3 (\$0 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 - (c) Members of the Kentucky National Guard and recipients of the Purple Heart:
 - 1. Initial Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 - 2. Renewal Fee: \$8 (\$0 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

(d) Members of the Civil Air Patrol; active, retired, veteran, reserve, or auxiliary members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; Merchant Marines who served between December 7, 1941, and August 15, 1945; recipients of the Silver Star Medal, or the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor; persons who wish to receive Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, or Gold Star Spouses license plates beyond the two (2) exempted from fees under KRS 186.041(6); individuals eligible for a special military service academy license plate under KRS 186.041(8); and 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:

1. Initial Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).

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

1. Initial Fee: \$3 (\$0 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
2. Renewal Fee: \$3 (\$0 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).

(f) Disabled license plates:

1. Initial Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).

(g) Historic vehicles:

1. Initial Fee for two plates: \$53 (\$50 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
2. Renewal Fee: Do not renew annually.

(h) Members of Congress:

1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).

2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (i) Firefighters:
1. Initial Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (j) Emergency management:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (k) Fraternal Order of Police:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky FOP Death Benefit Fund).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky FOP Death Benefit Fund).
- (l) Law Enforcement Memorial:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Inc.).
- (m) Personalized plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (n) Street rods:
1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (o) Nature plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).

2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund established under KRS 146.570).
- (p) Amateur radio:
1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (q) Kentucky General Assembly:
1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (r) Kentucky Court of Justice:
1. Initial Fee: \$40 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$8 (\$0 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (s) Masons:
1. Initial Fee: \$28 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$15 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$0 EF).
- (t) Collegiate plates:
1. Initial Fee: \$50 (\$37 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the general scholarship fund of the university whose name will be borne on the plate).
- (u) Independent Colleges:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the general scholarship funds of the Association's members).

2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities for distribution to the general scholarship funds of the Association's members).
- (v) Child Victims:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the child victims' trust fund established under KRS 41.400).
- (w) Kentucky Horse Council:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky Horse Council).
- (x) Ducks Unlimited:
1. Initial Fee: \$38 (\$25 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to Kentucky Ducks Unlimited).
- (y) Spay neuter:
1. Initial Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the animal control and care fund established under KRS 258.119).
- (z) Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, ~~{or}~~ Gold Star Spouses, *or Gold Star Families:*
1. Initial Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$0 (\$0 SF/\$0 CF/ \$0 EF).

3. A person may receive a maximum of two (2) plates under this paragraph free of charge and may purchase additional plates for fees as established in subsection (2)(d) of this section.
 - (aa) I Support Veterans:
 1. Initial Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs).
 - (ab) Gold Star Siblings:
 1. Initial Fee: \$25 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$10 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
 2. Renewal Fee: \$20 (\$12 SF/\$3 CF/\$5 EF to the veterans' program trust fund established under KRS 40.460).
- (3) Any special license plate may be combined with a personalized license plate for a twenty-five dollar (\$25) state fee in addition to all other fees for the particular special license plate established in this section and in KRS 186.164(3). The twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee required under this subsection shall be divided between the cabinet and the county clerk of the county where the applicant is applying for the license plate with the cabinet receiving twenty dollars (\$20) and the county clerk receiving five dollars (\$5).
- (4) Owners and lessees of motorcycles registered under KRS 186.050(2) may be eligible to receive special license plates issued under this section or established under the provisions of KRS 186.164 after the cabinet has received three hundred (300) applications and initial state fees from the sponsoring organization. Applicants for a special license plate for a motorcycle shall be required to pay the fee for a special plate as prescribed in this section or in KRS 186.164. The fee paid for the special plate for a motorcycle shall be in lieu of the registration fee required

under KRS 186.050(2).

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

- (1) The Transportation Cabinet shall, unless directed otherwise by the General Assembly, perpetually produce the following special license plates: military license plates, U.S. Congressional license plates, firefighter license plates, emergency management license plates, Fraternal Order of Police license plates, Law Enforcement Memorial license plates, street rod license plates, nature license plates, amateur radio license plates, Kentucky General Assembly license plates, Kentucky Court of Justice license plates, Masonic Order license plates, collegiate license plates, independent college and university license plates, child victims' trust fund license plates, Kentucky Horse Council license plates, Ducks Unlimited license plates, Gold Star Mothers, *Fathers, Spouses, Families, and Siblings* license plates, Silver Star Medal license plates, Bronze Star Medal license plates, spay neuter license plates, service academy license plates, and I Support Veterans license plates.
- (2) The design of the plates identified for perpetual production under this section may be revised upon request of a group or organization requesting a design revision under the provisions of KRS 186.164(15).
- (3)
 - (a) The design of a Purple Heart license plate shall not include any representation of the word "Kentucky" that is a registered trademark or slogan which appears on a general issue license plate.
 - (b) The design of a Purple Heart license plate shall include a representation of the Purple Heart medal and the words "Combat Wounded."

➔Section 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2017.