

HOUSE BILL No. 2137

By Representative Burroughs

1-28

9 AN ACT relating to license plates; concerning the county designation
10 thereon; amending K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 8-132, 8-134 and 8-147 and
11 repealing the existing sections.
12

13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 New Section 1. Any license plate currently issued under the provi-
15 sions of article 1 of chapter 8 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, which
16 has the two letter county designation decal affixed to such plate, may be
17 removed by the owner of such plate.

18 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 8-132 is hereby amended to read as fol-
19 lows: 8-132. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section and K.S.A. 8-
20 1,125, and amendments thereto, the division of vehicles shall furnish to
21 every owner whose vehicle shall be registered one license plate for such
22 vehicle. Such license plate shall have displayed on it the registration num-
23 ber assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof, the name of the
24 state, which may be abbreviated, and the year or years for which it is
25 issued. The same type of license plates shall be issued for passenger motor
26 vehicles, rented without a driver, as are issued for private passenger
27 vehicles.

28 (b) During calendar year 1975 commencing on the effective date of
29 this act, and during every fifth calendar year thereafter, the division of
30 vehicles shall furnish one license plate for any type of vehicle an owner
31 registers or has the registration thereof renewed, but during the suc-
32 ceeding four-year period following calendar year 1975 and during the
33 succeeding four-year period following every fifth calendar year subse-
34 quent to 1975, the division of vehicles shall not furnish any license plate
35 for the renewal of a vehicle's registration. During calendar year 1976 and
36 during each calendar year thereafter in which a license plate is not issued
37 for the renewal of registration of a vehicle, the division of vehicles shall
38 furnish one decal for the license plate issued for a vehicle as provided in
39 K.S.A. 8-134, and amendments thereto, for each registration and renewal
40 of registration of such vehicle. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions
41 of this subsection, whenever, in the discretion of the director of vehicles,
42 it is determined that the license plates currently being issued and dis-
43 played are not deteriorating to the extent that their replacement is war-

1 ranted, the director may adopt rules and regulations to extend the five-
2 year issuance cycle provided for in this subsection by one year at a time,
3 and in the same manner the director may further extend such cycle by
4 one year at a time, successively as the director determines appropriate.
5 If the cycle is extended at the expiration of the extended term, new license
6 plates shall again be issued in the manner and for the term provided in
7 such rules and regulations, except that the owner of a motor vehicle cur-
8 rently registered may continue to display the license plate currently being
9 issued and displayed for a period not to exceed three registration years
10 from the date of the expiration of the extended term. The division shall
11 furnish one decal for each such license plate in accordance with the pro-
12 visions of this subsection.

13 (c) Two personalized license plates may be issued to any owner or
14 lessee of a passenger vehicle or a truck licensed for a gross weight of not
15 more than 20,000 pounds, who makes proper application to the division
16 of vehicles not less than 60 days prior to such owner's or lessee's renewal
17 of registration date. Such application shall be on a form prescribed by
18 the division and accompanied by a fee of \$40, which shall be in addition
19 to any other fee required to renew the registration of such passenger
20 vehicle under the laws of this state. One such personalized license plate
21 shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle and, at the option of the
22 owner or lessee, the other license plate may be displayed on the front of
23 the vehicle, except that no registration decal shall be issued pursuant to
24 K.S.A. 8-134, and amendments thereto, for any such license plate dis-
25 played on the front of such vehicle. One personalized license plate may
26 be issued to any owner of a motorcycle upon proper application in the
27 same manner provided in this subsection (c) for passenger vehicles and
28 trucks. The \$40 fee shall be paid only once during the registration period
29 for which such license plates were issued, and any subsequent renewals
30 during the registration period shall be subject only to the registration fee
31 prescribed by K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto. The division shall
32 design distinctive, personalized license plates to be issued which shall
33 contain not more than seven letters or numbers on truck or passenger
34 vehicle license plates and not more than five letters or numbers on mo-
35 torcycle license plates, or a combination thereof, to be designated by the
36 applicant in lieu of the letters and numbers required by K.S.A. 8-147, and
37 amendments thereto, ~~other than the letters required to designate the~~
38 ~~county in which such vehicle is registered.~~ Unless the letters or numbers
39 designated by the applicant have been assigned to another vehicle of the
40 same type registered in the same county, or unless the letters or numbers
41 designated by the applicant have a profane, vulgar, lewd or indecent
42 meaning or connotation, as determined by the director of vehicles, the
43 division shall assign such letters or numbers to the applicant's vehicle,

1 and the letters or numbers, or combination thereof, so assigned shall be
2 deemed the registration number of such vehicle. Subject to the foregoing
3 provisions, all license plates issued under this section shall be manufac-
4 tured in accordance with K.S.A. 8-147, and amendments thereto. Such
5 license plates shall be issued for a registration period of five years com-
6 mencing in 1985 and each five years thereafter.

7 The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to
8 carry out the provisions of this act, including, without limitation, rules
9 and regulations concerning (1) the procedure for insuring that duplicate
10 license plates are not issued in the same county, (2) the procedure for
11 reserving distinctive license plates for the purpose of obtaining the same
12 on each annual renewal of registration, (3) the procedure for allowing the
13 transfer of personalized license plates from one vehicle to another for
14 which such license plates were originally issued, when the title to the
15 original vehicle has not been transferred and the name or names of the
16 owner or owners listed on the titles to both vehicles are identical, and (4)
17 procedures necessary to coordinate this act with other laws of this state
18 governing registration of vehicles. The director of vehicles shall remit all
19 moneys received by the division of vehicles under this section to the state
20 treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and
21 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state
22 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit
23 of the state highway fund.

24 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 8-134 is hereby amended to read as fol-
25 lows: 8-134. (a) Every vehicle registration under this act shall expire De-
26 cember 31 of each year, except passenger vehicles and vehicles provided
27 for in K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto. The registration of vehi-
28 cles to which K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto, applies shall expire
29 in 1982 and thereafter in accordance with the provisions of subsections
30 (b) and (c). Registration of vehicles shall be renewed annually upon ap-
31 plication by the owner and by payment of the fees required by law. Except
32 vehicles subject to K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto, and passen-
33 ger vehicles, the renewal shall take effect on January 1 of each year but
34 the owner of the vehicle shall have until and including the last day of
35 February of each year within which to make application for such renewal.
36 The division shall issue for such vehicles a February month decal to cor-
37 respond with the statutory grace period. Criminal sanctions provided in
38 K.S.A. 8-142 and amendments thereto, for failure to display any license
39 plate or plates or any registration decal required to be affixed to any such
40 license plate for the current registration year shall not be enforced until
41 March 1 of each year. An owner who has made proper application for
42 renewal of registration of a vehicle prior to January 1, but who has not
43 received the license plate or registration card for the ensuing year, shall

1 be entitled to operate or permit the operation of such vehicle upon the
2 highways upon displaying thereon the license plate issued for the pre-
3 ceding year for such time as the director of vehicles finds necessary for
4 issuance of such new license plate.

5 (b) Every passenger vehicle required by this act to be registered,
6 except as otherwise provided, shall be registered for a period of 12 con-
7 secutive months. The division of vehicles, in order to initiate a system of
8 registering or reregistering passenger vehicles during any month of a cal-
9 endar year, may register or reregister a passenger vehicle for less than a
10 twelve-month period, prorating the annual registration fee, when in the
11 director's opinion such proration tends to fulfill the purpose of the
12 monthly registration system.

13 (c) Passenger vehicle registration, and the authority to legally operate,
14 use, or tow such vehicle on the highway shall expire at 12:00 a.m. midnight
15 on the last day of the last month of the twelve-month period for which
16 such vehicle was registered, and the owner shall see that such vehicle is
17 reregistered as required by this act. The director of vehicles shall desig-
18 nate the registration period for each passenger vehicle in order to as
19 nearly as feasible equalize registration or reregistration within the 12
20 months of the year. Any vehicle after having once been registered shall
21 upon reregistration, be registered for the same twelve-month period ex-
22 cept when the certificate of title has been transferred as provided by law.
23 In this case, the vehicle shall be registered by the division of vehicles in
24 accordance with the system adopted.

25 (d) For the purpose of this act, hearses and electrically propelled
26 vehicles shall be classified as passenger vehicles.

27 (e) Every owner who registers or reregisters a vehicle in a calendar
28 year, and in any calendar year in which a license plate is not issued for
29 the renewal of registration of such vehicle, shall be furnished by the di-
30 vision one decal for the license plate issued for such vehicle and required
31 by K.S.A. 8-133, and amendments thereto, to be affixed to the rear of
32 such vehicle. Such decal shall be affixed to the number plate affixed to
33 the rear of such vehicle and ~~shall contain the letters designating the~~
34 ~~county in which such vehicle is registered, as provided in K.S.A. 8-147,~~
35 ~~and amendments thereto,~~ shall be numbered serially in each county and
36 shall indicate the year in which such registration expires. The color of a
37 decal shall be such that it contrasts with the color of the license plate to
38 which it is to be affixed, and the director of vehicles shall change the color
39 of such decals each year, without duplicating the same color in any five-
40 year period or such extended period as the director designates under
41 subsection (b) of K.S.A. 8-132 and amendments thereto. Such decals shall
42 be so constructed that once a decal has been affixed to a license plate it
43 cannot be removed without destroying the decal, and the surface of such

1 decals shall be capable of reflecting light. Consistent with the foregoing,
2 the director of vehicles shall prescribe the size of and material to be used
3 in the production of such decals, and the director of vehicles shall des-
4 ignate the location on a number plate where such decal shall be affixed.

5 (f) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations nec-
6 essary to accomplish the purpose of this act.

7 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 8-147 is hereby amended to read as fol-
8 lows: 8-147. As used in this section "license plate" means the plate used
9 to externally evidence registration of a vehicle under chapter 8 of Kansas
10 Statutes Annotated. Prior to November 1 of each year, the director of
11 vehicles shall furnish the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed
12 specifications for the manufacture of all license plates and registration
13 decals, together with the number required for delivery in the succeeding
14 year for use during the following year, and the state corporation com-
15 mission shall furnish the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed
16 specifications for the manufacture of identification tags together with the
17 number required for delivery in the succeeding year for use in the fol-
18 lowing year. The secretary of revenue shall cause to be manufactured all
19 license plates and registration decals and state corporation commission
20 identification tags based on such specifications and estimates. For such
21 purpose, the secretary of revenue shall enter into a contract for the man-
22 ufacture of license plates, tags and decals with any organization or insti-
23 tution designated in K.S.A. 39-1208, and amendments thereto. Any such
24 contract may provide that the secretary of revenue shall furnish or cause
25 to be furnished the materials and supplies necessary for the manufacture
26 and distribution of license plates, tags and decals if, in the opinion of the
27 secretary of revenue, a reduction in the cost of manufacturing and dis-
28 tribution of the license plates, tags and decals under such contract will
29 be achieved. Subject to the foregoing, the cost to the state for the man-
30 ufacture of the license plates, tags and decals pursuant to any contract
31 entered into under this section shall be substantially equivalent to such
32 costs under prior contracts, with the cost of license plates increased in
33 the amount of the cost of coating with reflective material, but any such
34 contract shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3739, and
35 amendments thereto. Except as authorized by other provisions of law,
36 license plates, beginning in the year in which new license plates are issued
37 pursuant to K.S.A. 8-132, and amendments thereto, shall be lettered,
38 numbered and designed as provided in this section. Each license plate
39 shall contain a combination of three letters followed by a combination of
40 three numerals, except that once all allowable combinations of letters and
41 numerals have been used, each license plate shall contain an arrangement
42 of numerals or letters, or both, as shall be assigned by the secretary of
43 revenue. The arrangement of numerals and letters of license plates shall

1 be uniform throughout each classification of registration. The secretary
2 may provide for the arrangement of the numerals and letters in groups
3 or otherwise and for other distinguishing marks on such license plates.
4 The secretary of revenue shall design decals to be affixed to the license
5 plates to identify ~~the county by two letters chosen from the name of the~~
6 ~~county distinctly indicative of the name of the county in which the vehicle~~
7 ~~is registered and~~ the date registration is to expire. The letters and nu-
8 merals of such license plates shall be in such contrast of colors to the
9 background of the license plate as to make such letters and numerals
10 easily read. As new license plates are issued, the face of every license
11 plate shall be completely coated with a reflective material. The reflecto-
12 rized material shall be of such nature as to provide effective and depend-
13 able performance in the promotion of highway safety and vehicle iden-
14 tification throughout the service period for which the license plates are
15 issued. The sum of \$.50 shall be added to the cost of each reflectorized
16 license plate. The director shall change the color of such license plates
17 every time new license plates are issued under subsection (b) of K.S.A.
18 8-132, and amendments thereto. The quantity of license plates and reg-
19 istration decals to be furnished each county shall be computed upon the
20 basis of the number of motor vehicles registered and reregistered in such
21 county for the preceding year, and additional license plates and decals
22 shall be furnished as required. Any contract entered into pursuant to this
23 section for the manufacture of license plates and decals shall provide that
24 the license plates and decals, other than prorated license plates and prorated
25 backing plates, shall be shipped directly to the treasurer of the county
26 where they are to be used. Any such contract for the manufacture of state
27 corporation commission identification tags shall provide that such tags
28 shall be shipped directly to the state corporation commission.
29 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 8-132, 8-134 and 8-147 are hereby
30 repealed.
31 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
32 publication in the statute book.