

SESSION OF 2010

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2660**

As Agreed to May 5, 2010

**Brief\***

HB 2660 would make several changes related to vehicle registration.

**License Plates.** The bill would authorize three new distinctive license plates, which then could be issued beginning January 1, 2012. The bill also would change payment requirements for a current license plate.

- **Boy Scouts license plates.** The bill would authorize Boy Scouts of America license plates for passenger vehicles and small trucks. Decals would be available to indicate the Order of the Arrow, Wood Badge, God and Country Award, and Eagle Scout, \$2 for each decal. Those who wish to receive a Boy Scouts of America license plate would pay a royalty amount of at least \$25 but not more than \$100 to a Boy Scouts of America Council for use of its logo before receiving such a plate, in addition to regular license plate fees. The Boy Scouts of America Councils would be required to pay the initial cost of developing the license plate. **(Section 1)**
- **Vietnam War Veteran license plates.** The bill would authorize the issuance of distinctive Vietnam War Veteran license plates for passenger vehicles, small trucks, and motorcycles to those who submit satisfactory proof of being veterans of the Vietnam War. The bill would exempt those who receive such license plates from payment of a distinctive license plate fee. In the event of the death of

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the veteran to whom the license plate was issued, the surviving spouse or other family member, if there is no surviving spouse, would be entitled to retain the license plate. **(Sections 2, 7, 8)**

- ***“I’m Pet Friendly” license plates.*** The bill would authorize the issuance of distinctive “I’m Pet Friendly” license plates for passenger vehicles, small trucks, and motorcycles. The College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, with approval of the Director of Vehicles, would design the plate, and a royalty payment of between \$25 and \$100 would be paid to the College for each license plate. Any royalty payment would be used to support education regarding the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats in Kansas and veterinary student externships at animal shelters in Kansas. The College would be required to pay the initial cost of developing the license plate. **(Section 3)**

***Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles.*** The bill would define a new type of vehicle, a “recreational off-highway vehicle,” as a motor vehicle 64 inches or less in width, weighing no more than 2,000 pounds, and having four non-highway tires, a nonstraddle seat, and a steering wheel. These vehicles would be excluded from the definitions of work-site utility vehicle and micro utility truck, and they would be listed as nonhighway vehicles.

An owner of a recreational off-highway vehicle would be required to obtain a nonhighway title for that vehicle. **(Sections 4 and 6)**

***Vehicle Registration Facilities.*** The bill would clarify the type of facility at which a county treasurer would be allowed to charge up to \$5 for any motor vehicle registered at that facility. The bill would require that a county have at least one registration facility at which the fee would not be charged and

that the fee not be charged at a registration facility within the county courthouse or administration office used as the primary location for the county treasurer's operations. **(Section 5)**

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to consolidate provisions relating to vehicle registration into this bill. It added the provisions regarding Vietnam War veteran license plates and "I'm Pet Friendly" license plates. These provisions had been in House Sub. for SB 300. The Conference Committee removed provisions regarding responsibility for minors wearing helmets and eye protection while riding motorcycles and regarding an exception to window tinting restrictions.

### **Background**

The original SB 300 would have increased the single-trip permit fee charged by the Kansas Department of Transportation for certain oversize or overweight vehicles and enacted new fees for certain types of large loads. Those provisions were enacted in 2009 in House Sub. for SB 145. HB 2660 as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole included the provisions regarding Boy Scout license plates.

***Boy Scouts of America license plate provisions.*** These provisions originally were in HB 2615. They were added to this bill by the House Committee of the Whole. There was no hearing on the Boy Scouts of America license plate portion of the bill.

***Vietnam War Veteran license plate provisions.*** These provisions are not in a current bill. The provisions were added to House Sub. for SB 300 by the House Committee of the Whole and moved into HB 2660 by the Conference Committee.

***"I'm Pet Friendly" license plate provisions.*** These provisions were originally in HB 2255, introduced in 2009, but

there are changes to the effective date and no exemption from the distinctive license plate fee. There was no hearing on HB 2255. These provisions were added to House Sub. for SB 300 by the House Committee of the Whole and moved into HB 2660 by the Conference Committee.

***Additional information on license plate fees.*** The following list shows other license plates authorized since 1994, whether they are exempted from the fee, and whether a royalty must be paid to a sponsoring organization:

- Exempted: Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; retired or active members of the military; the Children's Trust Fund (royalty, to Family and Children Trust Account of the state Family and Children Investment Fund); Helping Schools (royalty, to State Board of Education); breast cancer research and outreach (royalty, to University of Kansas Cancer Center); and "Support Kansas Arts" (royalty, to Kansas Arts Commission). The proposed Vietnam War Veteran license plate would be exempted. (Distinctive plates authorized in 1994 or earlier and therefore exempt include those for educational institutions [college or university; royalty, to each institution's alumni association or foundation] and various military or veteran license plates.)
- Not exempted: Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (royalty, to Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom); Shriners (royalty, to Shrine Temple for the Shriners Hospital for Children); firefighter; emergency medical services; Gold Star Mother; and In God We Trust. The proposed Boy Scouts of America (royalty, to Boy Scouts of America Council) and "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate (royalty, to Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine) would not be exempted.

***Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles.*** A representative of Polaris Industries requested and testified in favor of the portion of the bill having to do with recreational off-highway vehicles,

the original topic of HB 2660. No other testimony was presented on the topic.

The House Committee on Transportation amended the original bill to remove a section having to do with an exclusion from titling the vehicles under certain circumstances. Because these vehicles are not yet in general production, according to testimony, it was determined that the provision was not needed.

The Senate Committee on Transportation removed all portions on this topic except those that defined this new type of vehicle by specifications for it and as a nonhighway vehicle. The removed sections included those on permissible operation on public roads under certain circumstances and a fine for improper operation.

***Vehicle Registration Facilities.*** These provisions originally were in SB 408. The Johnson County treasurer and a representative of the Kansas Association of Counties presented testimony in favor of SB 408. No testimony was presented in opposition to the bill. The Senate Committee on Transportation amended the bill to require that the fee not be charged at one or more of a county's registration facilities. The provisions were added into HB 2660 by the Conference Committee.

***Fiscal note information.***

- Boy Scouts license plate provisions. The fiscal note relating to the original Boy Scouts of America license plate bill says that the Department of Revenue estimated that license plate would increase its expenditures by \$36,300 (for manufacturing the license plates and for programming) and increase revenues by \$40,000.
- Vietnam War Veteran license plate provisions. No fiscal note was available.
- "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate provisions. According to the fiscal note on 2009 HB 2255, the provisions would

require a minimum of 500 plates guaranteed. A distinctive license plate fee of \$40 would be collected for each plate.

- Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles provisions. According to the fiscal note on the original provisions (HB 2660), the Department of Revenue estimates the bill would increase expenditures from the State Highway Fund by \$12,610 in FY 2011 for programming. Any increase in revenues to the State Highway Fund from title fees and fines was estimated to be negligible.
- Vehicle Registration Facilities provisions. According to the fiscal note on SB 408, the bill would have no fiscal effect on Department of Revenue operations. The fiscal note also states that the effects on counties would depend on actions taken by county treasurers and cannot be estimated.

license plate, Boy Scout, Vietnam War, veteran, recreational vehicle, off-highway vehicle, registration