

Division of Vehicles
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Mark Burghart, Secretary



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Testimony

To: Chairman Francis and Members of the House Transportation Committee
From: Lee Ann Phelps, Vehicle Services Manager, Division of Vehicles
Date: February 2, 2023
RE: House Bill 2149 – personalize distinctive license plates

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present neutral testimony on HB 2149.

This bill proposes to allow distinctive license plates to be personalized. The interpretation of this bill by the Division is that it does not allow personalization of certain distinctive plates, listed below.

8-177d – Gold Star Mother
8-1,145 – Congressional Medal of Honor
8-1,163 – Vietnam War Veteran
8-1,166 – Families of the Fall
8-1,185 – Korean War Veteran
8-1,186 – Operation Desert Storm
8-1,187 – Operation Iraqi Freedom
8-1,188 – Operation Enduring Freedom
8-1,194 – United States Army
8-1,195 – United States Navy
8-1,196 – United States Marine Corp
8-1,197 – United States Air Force
8-1,198 – United States Coast Guard
8-1,199 – United States Space Force
8-1,204 – Silver Star Medal
8-1,205 – Bronze Star Medal
8-1,146 – Veteran
8-1,148 – Children’s Trust Fund
8-1,153 – Helping Schools
8-1,158 – Breast Cancer
8-1,161 – Support Kansas Arts

The Division seeks clarification from the Committee as to whether it is the legislative intent that the plates listed above could be personalized.

Further, the Division feels compelled to point out that because of the nature of distinctive plates, many have a logo or emblem on the left side of the plate thereby reducing the space available for plate combination text. Current personalized plates allow up to seven digits on a large plate. Due to the spacing issues on distinctive plates most of them would only allow for five characters in the personalized text on a large plate. For motorcycle plates, it would be even fewer.

I will respond to questions at the appropriate time.