

Division of Vehicles
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Mark Burghart, Secretary



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To: Chairman Petersen, Senate Transportation Committee
From: Zach Denney, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Department of Revenue
Date: February 27, 2025
RE: HB 2168

Thank you, Chairman, and Committee members, for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2168.

HB 2168 was requested by the Division of Vehicles (DOV) and this bill would create a blackout-style distinctive license plate. This design has a plain black background with white text. The Division of Vehicles would receive the royalty fee from sales of the blackout plate which would be deposited into a newly created license plate replacement fund to be used exclusively by the Division to fund license plate replacements. The royalty fee for the blackout plate would be \$50.

The plate would be eligible for the wheelchair emblem decal and cognitive disorder decal. The plate would be available for all passenger vehicles and motorcycles, trucks or buses, and trailers that are recreational vehicles. The plate would be able to be personalized for an additional \$40 personalization fee.

Blackout plates have been introduced in several other states, including Colorado, Iowa, and Minnesota, and have proven to be extremely popular with the residents of those states. In Minnesota, 271,000 blackout plates were sold in the first year of availability, according to a report from the Minneapolis Star Tribune. In Iowa, more than 750,000 blackout plates have been sold since they were introduced 6 years ago, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation. We expect the blackout plate to be very well received by Kansas residents too.

DOV estimates that around 30,420 blackout plates would be sold in the first year of availability, generating around \$2.6 million in revenue. The revenue would be used to replace the remaining embossed plates that are still out on the road and any future plate replacements that need to be done.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and the committee.