

HOUSE BILL No. 2617

By Representative A. Smith

2-2

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to license plates; providing
2 that motorcycle license plates shall contain a combination not fewer
3 than six letters or numbers; amending K.S.A. 8-172 and K.S.A. 2025
4 Supp. 8-132 and 8-147 and repealing the existing sections.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-132 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows: 8-132. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section and K.S.A. 8-
9 1,125, and amendments thereto, the division of vehicles shall furnish to
10 every owner whose vehicle shall be registered one license plate for such
11 vehicle. Such license plate shall have displayed on it the registration
12 number assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof, the name of the
13 state, which may be abbreviated, and the year or years for which it is
14 issued. The same type of license plates shall be issued for passenger motor
15 vehicles, rented without a driver, as are issued for private passenger
16 vehicles.

17 (b) During calendar year 1975 commencing on the effective date of
18 this act, and during every fifth calendar year thereafter, the division of
19 vehicles shall furnish one license plate for any type of vehicle an owner
20 registers or has the registration thereof renewed, but during the succeeding
21 four-year period following calendar year 1975 and during the succeeding
22 four-year period following every fifth calendar year subsequent to 1975,
23 the division of vehicles shall not furnish any license plate for the renewal
24 of a vehicle's registration. During calendar year 1976 and during each
25 calendar year thereafter in which a license plate is not issued for the
26 renewal of registration of a vehicle, the division of vehicles shall furnish
27 one decal for the license plate issued for a vehicle as provided in K.S.A. 8-
28 134, and amendments thereto, for each registration and renewal of
29 registration of such vehicle. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of
30 this subsection, whenever, in the discretion of the director of vehicles, it is
31 determined that the license plates currently being issued and displayed are
32 not deteriorating to the extent that their replacement is warranted, the
33 director may adopt rules and regulations to extend the five-year issuance
34 cycle provided for in this subsection by one year at a time, and in the same
35 manner the director may further extend such cycle by one year at a time,
36 successively as the director determines appropriate. If the cycle is

1 extended at the expiration of the extended term, new license plates shall
2 again be issued in the manner and for the term provided in such rules and
3 regulations, except that the owner of a motor vehicle currently registered
4 may continue to display the license plate currently being issued and
5 displayed for a period not to exceed three registration years from the date
6 of the expiration of the extended term. The division shall furnish one decal
7 for each such license plate in accordance with the provisions of this
8 subsection.

9 (c) Any license plate issued pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) may be a
10 personalized license plate subject to the additional fee set forth in
11 subsection (d). The division shall allow an applicant for a personalized
12 license plate to personalize a license plate design established by subsection
13 (a), (b) or (d).

14 (d) One personalized license plate may be issued to any owner or
15 lessee of a passenger vehicle or a truck licensed for a gross weight of not
16 more than 20,000 pounds who makes proper application to the division of
17 vehicles at renewal of registration date. Such application shall be on a
18 form prescribed by the division and accompanied by a fee of \$40, which
19 shall be in addition to any other fee required to renew the registration of
20 such passenger vehicle under the laws of this state. Such personalized
21 license plate shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. One personalized
22 license plate may be issued to any owner of a motorcycle upon proper
23 application in the same manner provided in this subsection for passenger
24 vehicles and trucks. The \$40 fee shall be paid only once during the
25 registration period for which such license plates were issued, and any
26 subsequent renewals during the registration period shall be subject only to
27 the registration fee prescribed by K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto.
28 The division shall design distinctive, personalized license plates to be
29 issued that shall contain not more than seven letters or ~~numbers~~ *numerals*
30 on truck or passenger vehicle license plates and not ~~more~~ *fewer than five*
31 ~~six~~ letters or ~~numbers~~ *numerals* on motorcycle license plates, or a
32 combination thereof, to be designated by the applicant in lieu of the letters
33 and ~~numbers~~ *numerals* required by K.S.A. 8-147, and amendments thereto,
34 other than the letters required to designate the county in which such
35 vehicle is registered. Unless the letters or ~~numbers~~ *numerals* designated by
36 the applicant have been assigned to another vehicle, or unless the letters or
37 ~~numbers~~ *numerals* designated by the applicant have a profane, vulgar,
38 lewd or indecent meaning or connotation, as determined by the director of
39 vehicles, the division shall assign such letters or ~~numbers~~ *numerals* to the
40 applicant's vehicle, and the letters or ~~numbers~~ *numerals*, or combination
41 thereof, so assigned shall be deemed the registration number of such
42 vehicle. Subject to the foregoing provisions, all license plates issued under
43 this section shall be manufactured in accordance with K.S.A. 8-147, and

1 amendments thereto. Such license plates shall be issued for a registration
2 period of five years commencing in 1985 and each five years thereafter.

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

20 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-147 is hereby amended to read as
21 follows: 8-147. (a) As used in this section, "license plate" means the plate
22 used to externally evidence registration of a vehicle under chapter 8 of
23 Kansas Statutes Annotated, *and amendments thereto*.

24 (b) Prior to November 1 of each year, the director of vehicles shall
25 furnish the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed specifications
26 for the manufacture of all license plates and registration decals, together
27 with the number required for delivery in the succeeding year for use
28 during the following year. The state corporation commission shall furnish
29 the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed specifications for the
30 manufacture of identification tags together with the number required for
31 delivery in the succeeding year for use in the following year. The secretary
32 of revenue shall cause to be manufactured all license plates and
33 registration decals and state corporation commission identification tags
34 based on such specifications and estimates. For such purpose, the secretary
35 of revenue shall enter into a contract for the manufacture of license plates,
36 tags and decals with any organization or institution designated in K.S.A.
37 39-1208, and amendments thereto. Any such contract may provide that the
38 secretary of revenue shall furnish or cause to be furnished the materials
39 and supplies necessary for the manufacture and distribution of license
40 plates, tags and decals if, in the opinion of the secretary of revenue, a
41 reduction in the cost of manufacturing and distribution of the license
42 plates, tags and decals under such contract will be achieved. Subject to the
43 foregoing, the cost to the state for the manufacture of the license plates,

1 tags and decals pursuant to any contract entered into under this section
2 shall be substantially equivalent to such costs under prior contracts, with
3 the cost of license plates increased in the amount of the cost of coating
4 with reflective material, but any such contract shall not be subject to the
5 provisions of K.S.A. 75-3739, and amendments thereto.

6 (c) Except as authorized by other provisions of law, license plates,
7 beginning in the year in which new license plates are issued pursuant to
8 K.S.A. 8-132, and amendments thereto, shall be lettered, numbered and
9 designed as provided in this section. Each license plate shall contain a
10 combination of three letters followed by a combination of three numerals,
11 except that once all allowable combinations of letters and numerals have
12 been used, each license plate shall contain an arrangement of numerals or
13 letters, or both, as shall be assigned by the secretary of revenue.
14 *Motorcycle license plates shall contain a combination of not fewer than*
15 *six letters or numbers.* The arrangement of numerals and letters of license
16 plates shall be uniform throughout each classification of registration. The
17 secretary may provide for the arrangement of the numerals and letters in
18 groups or otherwise and for other distinguishing marks on such license
19 plates. The secretary of revenue shall design decals to be affixed to the
20 license plates to identify registration expiration information consistent
21 with K.S.A. 8-134, and amendments thereto. The letters and numerals of
22 such license plates shall be in such contrast of colors to the background of
23 the license plate as to make such letters and numerals easily readable.

24 (d) As new license plates are issued, the face of every license plate
25 shall be completely coated with a reflective material. The reflectorized
26 material shall be of such nature as to provide effective and dependable
27 performance in the promotion of highway safety and vehicle identification
28 throughout the service period for which the license plates are issued. The
29 sum of \$.50 shall be added to the cost of each reflectorized license plate.
30 The director shall change the color of such license plates every time new
31 license plates are issued under K.S.A. 8-132(b), and amendments thereto.

32 (e) Any contract entered into pursuant to this section for the
33 manufacture of license plates and decals shall provide that the license
34 plates and decals, other than prorate license plates and prorate backing
35 plates, shall be shipped directly to the treasurer of the county where they
36 are to be used or, for digitally fulfilled license plate orders, directly to the
37 customer for whom the plate is issued. Any such contract for the
38 manufacture of state corporation commission identification tags shall
39 provide that such tags shall be shipped directly to the state corporation
40 commission.

41 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 8-172 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-172. (a)
42 Except as provided in subsection (c), license plates issued for antique
43 vehicles shall be distinctive ~~and shall~~ contain the words "Kansas" and

1 "antique" and ~~there shall be~~ *have* no year date thereon. The numbering
2 system shall consist of combinations of not more than seven letters of the
3 alphabet or numerals or a combination of such letters and numerals. The
4 combinations of such letters and numerals shall be at the direction of the
5 director of vehicles, except that any person owning an antique vehicle,
6 other than an antique motorcycle, may make application for a special
7 combination of letters and numerals not exceeding seven. Antique
8 motorcycle license plates shall be the same as other antique vehicle license
9 plates, except *that* the numbering system shall consist of not ~~more~~ *fewer*
10 than ~~five~~ *six* letters of the alphabet or numerals or a combination of letters
11 and numerals. Such application shall be made in a manner prescribed by
12 the director of vehicles and ~~shall be~~ accompanied by a special combination
13 fee of \$40. Unless the combination of letters or numerals designated by the
14 applicant ~~have~~ *has* been assigned to another antique vehicle registered in
15 this state, or ~~unless~~ the combination of letters or numerals designated by
16 the applicant ~~have~~ *has* a profane, vulgar, lewd or indecent meaning or
17 connotation, as determined by the director, the division shall assign such
18 combination of letters to the applicant's vehicle.

19 (b) In addition to the fees required under ~~subsection (b) of K.S.A. 8-~~
20 ~~167(b), and amendments thereto, and subsection (a) or (c) of this section,~~
21 the registration fee for any antique vehicle shall be \$40 and, once paid,
22 shall not be required to be renewed.

23 (c) In lieu of the license plate issued under subsection (a), a person
24 who owns an antique vehicle who wants to display a model year license
25 plate on the vehicle shall make application in a manner prescribed by the
26 director of vehicles, including the execution of an affidavit setting forth
27 that the model year license plate the person wants to display on the
28 person's antique vehicle is a legible and serviceable license plate that
29 originally was issued by this state or a license plate originally issued by a
30 Kansas city or a reproduction of such city issued license plate. Except for
31 license plates issued prior to 1921, such license plate shall be inscribed
32 with the date of the year corresponding to the model year when the vehicle
33 was manufactured. For license plates issued prior to 1921, such license
34 plate shall be the license plate issued by the state or a Kansas city or a
35 reproduction of such city issued license plate corresponding to the model
36 year when the vehicle was manufactured. Duplicate numbers for any year
37 shall not be allowed for any model year license plate under the provisions
38 of this subsection. Upon application to display a reproduction of a city
39 issued license plate, the division of vehicles shall issue a number to be
40 used for such reproduction license plate. The model year license plate fee
41 shall be \$40.

42 (d) In addition to the license plates authorized under subsection (a) or
43 (c), a person who owns an antique vehicle may display a model year

1 license plate originally issued by the state of Kansas or a Kansas city or a
2 reproduction of such city issued license plate on the front of an antique
3 vehicle. Except for license plates issued prior to 1921, such license plate
4 shall be inscribed with the date of the year corresponding to the model
5 year when the vehicle was manufactured. For license plates issued prior to
6 1921, such license plate shall be the license plate issued by the state or a
7 Kansas city or a reproduction of such city issued license plate
8 corresponding to the model year when the vehicle was manufactured.

9 (e) For a model year license plate issued during calendar year 1976 or
10 thereafter, ~~and which~~ *that* is displayed on an antique vehicle pursuant to
11 subsection (c), the owner may display a decal of the type described in
12 K.S.A. 8-132, and amendments thereto, for the year of the vehicle ~~so long~~
13 ~~as if~~ such decal is legible. Otherwise, on and after January 1, 2013, the
14 owner may obtain *from the county treasurer* a replacement decal ~~from the~~
15 ~~county treasurer which~~ *that* displays the year of the vehicle.

16 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 8-172 and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-132 and 8-147 are
17 hereby repealed.

18 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
19 publication in the statute book.