

Distinctive License Plates, Specialized License Plates to Military Veterans, and License Plate Issuance; HB 2201

HB 2201 authorizes issuance of three new license plates on and after January 1, 2026, amends certain requirements for the issuance of certain specialized plates to military veterans, and amends law regarding personalized license plates and decals on license plates.

Distinctive License Plates

The bill authorizes issuance of the following distinctive license plates:

- Kansas FFA Foundation, with royalty fees of \$25–\$100, as set by the organization, to benefit the foundation;
- Route 66 Association of Kansas (Route 66), with royalty fees of \$25–\$100, as set by the association, to benefit the association; and
- Blackout-style. The \$50 fee for this license plate is directed to pay costs associated with replacing license plates when the lifespan of such license plates has been exhausted, as determined by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue.

The bill authorizes each of these distinctive license plates to be issued to a vehicle owner or lessee for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of no more than 20,000 pounds, and authorizes the Director to transfer each of these types of plates from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The bill establishes procedures for a vehicle owner or lessee to obtain the license plate and the responsibilities of the Kansas FFA Foundation and the Route 66 Association of Kansas with regard to those license fees.

Issuance of Certain Specialized License Plates to Military Veterans

These provisions of the bill apply to a license plate available to members or veterans of all branches of the U.S. military and the Merchant Marines (all-branch plate) and to license plates specific to the branch of service: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force.

The bill authorizes issuance of these specialized license plates to U.S. military veterans who were released or discharged under a general discharge under honorable conditions, as well as to those who received an honorable discharge as in continuing law, and it amends provisions regarding proof of military service to clarify the acceptable forms of proof.

The bill amends the statute establishing the all-branch plate to require, rather than allow, proof of veteran military status to be shown by presentation of a Kansas driver's license with a "VETERAN" designation (as allowed in continuing law) or a copy of the veteran's DD form 214,

NGB form 22, or an equivalent discharge document as permitted by the Director showing character of service as honorable or general under honorable conditions.

The bill amends statutes for license plates specific to a branch of military service to remove references to proof of service, as authorized in rules and regulations of the Secretary of Revenue, and to reference the requirements in the statute establishing the all-branch license plate. The bill also replaces “was honorably discharged” with “under an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions” in the statutes authorizing specific-branch military license plates.

Number of Personalized License Plates Issued

The bill authorizes issuance of one, rather than two, personalized license plates and eliminates the requirement that an application for a personalized license plate be made no less than 60 days prior to the vehicle registration renewal date.

Decal Requirements on License Plates

The bill removes requirements that a decal affixed to a license plate that indicates the registration expiration year and license plate number also include the letters of the county in which the vehicle is registered. [Note: Continuing law requires placement of the county abbreviation on the license plate.]

The bill also removes language regarding furnishing license plate registration and registration decals to the counties and authorizes direct shipping to the customer for any digitally fulfilled license plate order.