

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2169

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2169, as amended, would amend statutes authorizing issuance of certain specialized license plates to military veterans to align requirements with statutory changes made in 2024 that standardized definitions and qualifications in multiple statutes with regard to benefits to veterans.

The bill also would remove a requirement that an application for license plates authorized for those in active military service or separated from it be made no less than 60 days before the applicant's registration renewal date.

The provisions would 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 would authorize 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 would amend provisions regarding proof of military service to clarify the acceptable forms of proof.

The bill would amend 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

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

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 of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), showing character of service as honorable or general under honorable conditions.

Statutes for license plates specific to a branch of military service would be amended 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 would replace "was honorably discharged" with "under an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions" in the statutes authorizing specific-branch military license plates.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of a representative of KDOR.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of KDOR provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would align the definitions of "veteran" in these statutes with changes enacted in 2024 HB 2760, a bill that, among other things, established common definitions of "veteran" across statutes administered by various agencies. Among the 2024 HB 2760 amendments were those to definitions in statutes regarding eligibility for disabled veteran license plates and the placement of "VETERAN" on a driver's license or KDOR-issued identification card.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Transportation

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of KDOR. The proponent generally stated KDOR considers this a cleanup bill that would simplify the process for veterans to obtain a military license plate.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures by \$1,200 to update various agency forms, policies, and procedures. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

License plate; military service; veteran