

Distinctive License Plates, Disabled Veteran License Plates, Proof of Veteran Status; HB 2476

HB 2476 adds several types of distinctive license plates, amends law governing eligibility for distinctive license plates for U.S. military veterans, and amends vehicle registration law regarding eligibility for a license plate available to a veteran with a disability, or a person responsible for transporting a veteran with a disability, and creates such license plates with and without the international symbol of access to physically disabled persons.

New Distinctive License Plates

The bill authorizes the creation and issuance of:

- The Silver Star license plate;
- The Bronze Star license plate;
- Four Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) license plates;
- The City of Hutchinson (Hutchinson) license plate; and
- The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) license plate.

For each of these license plates, the bill authorizes issuance of the license plate on or after January 1, 2023, for use on a passenger vehicle, truck with a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less, or motorcycle to a person having met the criteria for such plates.

The bill requires the application to be made at least 60 days prior to a person's renewal of registration date, on a form provided by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR).

Except for license plates for recipients of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star, under continuing law, any of the license plates will not be issued unless there is a guarantee of an initial issuance of at least 250 license plates, and the sponsor is required to submit a nonrefundable amount of no more than \$5,000 to defray costs of the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, for developing the distinctive license plate.

Silver Star and Bronze Star License Plates (New Sections 1 and 2; Sections 7 and 9)

The bill authorizes two distinctive license plates related to Silver Star and Bronze Star military honors. The bill requires an applicant to furnish proof satisfactory to the Director of having been awarded either the Bronze Star or Silver Star honor in order to be issued such license plate.

Neither type of license plate is transferable to another person. In the event of the death of any person issued either of these distinctive license plates, the surviving spouse or other family member, if there is no surviving spouse, is entitled to possession of the distinctive license plate but the license plate can not be displayed on any vehicle unless otherwise authorized by

statute. These license plates are exempt from requirements the person receiving the plate pay a distinctive license plate fee, for a minimum number to be ordered before issuance, and for payment of an amount to defray the costs of the Division of Vehicles to develop the license plate.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks License Plates (New Section 3; Section 10)

The bill authorizes issuance of a KDWP license plate to any Kansas resident having proper registration, who has paid the regular license fee and the KDWP royalty fee. The Secretary of Wildlife and Parks determines the amount of the annual royalty fee in an amount not less than \$40 nor more than \$100.

The license plates are not transferable to another person. The bill authorizes the Director to transfer a plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The license plates are intended to depict and promote:

- State parks;
- Hunting;
- Fishing; and
- Nongame wildlife.

As a condition of receiving these license plates, the bill requires an applicant's consent for the Division of Vehicles to provide the applicant's motor vehicle information to KDWP and the State Treasurer.

The royalty payments from these license plates are credited to different existing KDWP fee funds based upon the license plate selected:

- For the state parks license plate, all royalty funds are credited to the Parks Fee Fund;
- For the hunting, fishing, or nongame wildlife license plates:
 - An amount equal to the cost of an annual park pass and recreation motor vehicle permit is credited to the Parks Fee Fund; and
 - The remaining balance is credited to the Wildlife Fee Fund.

The bill amends law regarding parks and recreation motor vehicle permits to provide that the issuance of one of these distinctive license plates shall also constitute issuance of a park and recreation motor vehicle permit, giving the driver equivalent rights and access to state parks as an annual permit holder, so long as the registration is current and the plate is displayed on the vehicle as required by law.

City of Hutchinson License Plates (New Section 4)

The bill authorizes a Hutchinson license plate. The bill allows the City of Hutchinson to authorize the image of its flag to be affixed on these license plates, and requires the royalty payment to be used to support the Hutch Rec Foundation and park development in Hutchinson.

The purchase of a Hutchinson license plate requires a royalty of between \$25 and \$100 to the City of Hutchinson or the county treasurer. Payment of the regular license fee is required. The registration or license plate is not transferable to any other person. The bill authorizes the Director to transfer the plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle. The bill requires the City of Hutchinson to provide to county treasurers an email address for applicant use and, with the approval of the Director, to design the plate.

Daughters of the American Revolution (New Section 5)

The bill authorizes a DAR license plate. The purchase of a DAR license plate requires a royalty of between \$25 and \$100 to the DAR or the county treasurer. Payment of the regular license fee is required.

The registration or license plate is not transferable to any other person. The bill authorizes the Director to transfer the plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle. The bill requires the DAR to provide to county treasurers an email address for applicant use and, with the approval of the Director to design the plate.

Eligibility for Disabled Veteran License Plate (Section 6)

The bill amends vehicle registration law regarding eligibility for a license plate available to a veteran with a disability, or a person responsible for transporting a veteran with a disability, and creating such license plates with and without the international symbol of access to physically disabled persons.

The bill prohibits a disabled veteran distinctive license plate from being printed with the international symbol of access unless the veteran meets the definition of “person with a disability” in law specifying eligibility for accessible parking.

A motor vehicle displaying a distinctive disabled veteran license plate with an international symbol of access is authorized to park in any parking space clearly marked as being reserved for the use of persons with a disability, except a parking space on private property clearly marked as reserved for the use of a specified person with a disability. A vehicle displaying this license plate without the international symbol of access is not be permitted to park in a parking space reserved for the use of persons with a disability. Additional parking privileges for a vehicle displaying this license plate, regarding parking in metered zones and in parking spaces reserved for persons with disability in public parking facilities with parking attendants, continues.

Proof of Veteran Status (Section 8)

The bill amends law governing distinctive license plates for U.S. military veterans or active-duty servicemembers.

The bill states that in an application for a distinctive military license plate, an applicant may provide proof of military veteran status to the Director through a DD214 Form, a DD Form 2 (Retired), or a Kansas driver's license with a veteran designation and removes a reference to providing such proof in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of Revenue.

[*Note:* A DD214 Form is issued by the U.S. Department of Defense to certify a person has been discharged from active military duty. A DD Form 2 is issued by the U.S. Department of Defense to identify a person as reserved, retired, or reserve-retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces.]

The bill also adds the U.S. Space Force to the list of military branches for which an active service member or veteran may apply for a distinctive license plate.