

Distinctive License Plates; SB 359

SB 359 authorizes issuance of seven license plates on and after January 1, 2025, and requires the county of registration to be displayed on license plates approved for production and issuance on and after July 1, 2024.

Distinctive License Plates

The bill authorizes issuance of the following distinctive license plates:

- Kansas City Chiefs (Chiefs);
- Sporting Kansas City (Sporting KC);
- Kansas City Royals (Royals);
- Kansas City Current (KC Current);
- Sedgwick County Zoo;
- Topeka Zoo;
- “Support the Troops”; and
- First City of Kansas.

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.

The bill requires the vehicle owner or lessee to annually apply to the sponsor of the license plate no less than 60 days prior to the person’s renewal of registration date for use of the logo and pay an annual logo use royalty payment fee of \$25 up to \$100 to the sponsors for all but the Support the Troops plate; a \$25 fee that is not a logo use royalty payment will apply to the Support the Troops plate. The fee will be paid to the following entities for the respective license plates:

- For the Chiefs license plate, to the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc., to be paid to the Hunt Family Foundation;
- For the Sporting KC license plate, to OnGoal, LLC, to be paid to the Kansas City Soccer Foundation in support of the Victory Project;
- For the Sedgwick County Zoo license plate, to be paid to the Sedgwick County Zoological Society (Society);
- For the Royals license plate, to be paid to the Kansas City Royals Foundation;
- For the KC Current license plate, to be paid to the United Way of Greater Kansas City;

- For the Topeka Zoo license plate, to be paid to the Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Inc.;
- For the “Support the Troops” license plate, 50 percent of moneys received to be paid to the Kansas Department of the American Legion and 50 percent to the Kansas Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars; and
- For the First City of Kansas license plate, to be paid to the Leavenworth County Historical Society.

The bill requires, for each of these plates, an initial commitment for 250 plates and, for each of these plates except the Support the Troops plate, the sponsors to pay up to \$5,000 in development costs as required in continuing law (KSA 8-1,141). Initial and renewal registrations will be made through the county treasurer. The plates will not be transferable to any other person, but the bill authorizes the Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), to transfer the plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The bill requires the sponsoring organizations to design the plates, with the approval of the Director of Vehicles, and to provide to all county treasurers an email address for contacting the sponsor about the application process or the status of an application for the plate.

The bill requires, for each of the plates, the applicant to consent to the release of certain information by the Division of Vehicles, KDOR, including applicant name, address, royalty payment amount, plate number, and vehicle type to the sponsor and the State Treasurer.

County of Registration on License Plates

The bill requires each license plate approved for production and issuance on and after July 1, 2024, to have the county of registration horizontally printed on or affixed by decal to the license plate.

The requirement applies to a license plate for any vehicle for which the Kansas motor vehicle tax of Article 51 of Chapter 79 of the *Kansas Statutes Annotated* must be paid; that tax is not applicable to vehicles that are otherwise taxed, such as commercial motor vehicles and vehicles owned by a public service company or car rental company, motor vehicles registered for a gross weight exceeding 12,000 pounds, and recreational vehicles. The requirement also will not apply to a distinctive license plate issued to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.