

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2201**

As Agreed to March 24, 2025

**Brief\***

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

***Distinctive License Plates***

The bill would authorize issuance of the following distinctive license plates:

- National FFA Organization (FFA), with royalty fees of \$25–\$100, as set by the organization, to benefit the Kansas FFA 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 license plate. The \$50 fee for this license plate would be directed to pay costs associated with replacing license plates when the lifespan of such license plate is exhausted as determined by the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR).

The bill would authorize 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 would authorize the Director to transfer each of these types of plates from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

The bill would establish 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.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

### ***Issuance of Certain Specialized License Plates to Military Veterans***

These provisions of the bill 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 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.

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.

### ***Number of Personalized License Plates Issued***

The bill would authorize issuance of one, rather than two, personalized license plates and would eliminate 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 would remove 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 would also remove language regarding furnishing license plate registration and registration decals to the counties and would authorize direct shipping to the customer for any digitally fulfilled license plate order.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the contents of HB 2201 and to add the contents of:

SB 98, regarding Route 66 license plates;

HB 2168, regarding blackout license plates;

HB 2169, regarding issuance of license plates to military veterans; and

HB 2289, regarding the number of personalized license plates issued and decal requirements on license plates.

For all five bills, the Conference Committee also agreed to change the effective date from upon publication in the *Kansas Register* to upon publication in the Statute Book.

## **Background**

As agreed to by the Conference Committee, the bill includes provisions of HB 2201, SB 98, HB 2168, HB 2169, HB 2289, and the amendments described above.

### ***HB 2201 (FFA License Plate)***

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Transportation at the request of Representative Francis on behalf of Representative Rahjes and the Kansas FFA Foundation.

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Rahjes and representatives of the Kansas FFA Foundation, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, and Neodesha FFA Chapter. The proponents explained the benefits to participants in the FFA organization, including leadership training and opportunities, public speaking practice, educational opportunities, instruction in the agricultural industry, networking opportunities, and camaraderie gained with membership.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators, Kansas FFA Foundation, Kansas Farm Bureau, and Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation.

No other testimony was provided.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Kansas FFA Foundation and the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators, and the Sentinel, Secretary, and Vice President of Kansas FFA. Proponents stated that enactment of the bill would help Kansans invest in tomorrow's agricultural leaders while showing support for FFA.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by an agricultural education instructor and representatives of Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Grain and Feed Association.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

### ***SB 98 (Route 66 Association of Kansas License Plate)***

The bill was introduced by Senator Shallenburger.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of the Route 66 Association of Kansas provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would allow Kansans to celebrate, promote, and support historic Route 66. He noted the Route 66 centennial will occur in 2026.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Senator Shallenburger.

No other testimony was provided.

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Shallenburger, who stated the bill would allow Kansans to celebrate, promote, and support historic Route 66. He noted the Route 66 centennial will occur in 2026.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Route 66 Association of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

### ***HB 2168 (Blackout License Plate and License Plate Replacement Fund)***

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, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of KDOR. The proponent stated that all funds from the distinctive blackout license plate would go to the Fund and be used by KDOR to replace aging license plates. The representative also noted the popularity of the distinctive blackout license plate, which is black with white lettering, in other states, including Minnesota, where 271,000 distinctive blackout license plates were sold in the first year of availability, and 750,000 distinctive blackout license plates were sold in Iowa when Iowa's program began 6 years ago.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted a technical amendment to add standard language directing the fees to the Fund that would be established by the bill. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained this amendment.]

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of KDOR. The proponent stated that the blackout-style license plate is popular in other states and the revenue generated by such plates would help KDOR replace remaining embossed license plates and other aging license plates that are difficult to read.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

#### ***HB 2169 (Specialized License Plate Requirements for Issuance to Military Veterans)***

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*. [*Note:* The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

### ***HB 2289 (Single Personalized License Plates and Registration Decals)***

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, the KDOR Vehicle Services Senior Manager provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would eliminate requirements for processes no longer needed because license plates are now printed digitally; reflect that most vehicles do not have front brackets for license plates, and second personalized license plates have been used illegally on other vehicles; and eliminate a redundant requirement.

No other testimony was provided.

#### *Senate Committee on Transportation*

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of KDOR offered **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would remove the risk of second license plates being used illegally on other vehicles and eliminate an unnecessary requirement for applying for a personalized license plate at least 60 days before the renewal of registration date since license plates are now printed digitally.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*]

### **Fiscal Information**

#### ***HB 2201 (FFA License Plate)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2201, as introduced, KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures by \$2,890 in FY 2026 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new license plate and decrease revenues to the State Highway Fund by \$4,000 in FY 2026. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

#### ***SB 98 (Route 66 Association of Kansas License Plate)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 98, as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$2,890 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new license plate, and decrease revenues to the State Highway Fund by \$4,000 in FY 2026.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

***HB 2168 (Blackout License Plate and License Plate Replacement Fund)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2168, as introduced, KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$2,890 in FY 2026 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new plate. The Department estimates the bill would decrease revenues to the State Highway Fund by \$4,000 in FY 2026. [Note: The fiscal note did not contain an estimate of revenues to the License Plate Replacement Fund.] Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

***HB 2169 (Specialized License Plate Requirements for Issuance to Military Veterans)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2169, 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*.

***HB 2289 (Single Personalized License Plates and Registration Decals)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2289, as introduced, KDOR and the Kansas Corporation Commission state enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations. The Kansas Association of Counties (Association) states enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on counties as counties handle vehicle registration; however, the Association is unable to estimate the fiscal effect.

Distinctive license plate; Route 66; FFA; blackout license plate; License Plate Replacement Fund

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