

*As Amended by Senate Committee*

*Session of 2025*

**HOUSE BILL No. 2289**

By Committee on Transportation

Requested by Zach Denney on behalf of the Department of Revenue

2-5

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to license plates; allowing an  
2 applicant for a personalized license plate to be issued one such license  
3 plate rather than two; eliminating the requirement that applications for  
4 personalized license plates be made within 60 days from vehicle  
5 registration renewals; discontinuing the option for a person to display a  
6 personalized license plate on the front of a vehicle; modifying current  
7 requirements for the design and issuance of license plate registration  
8 decals; amending K.S.A. 8-132 and 8-147 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 8-  
9 134 and repealing the existing sections.

10  
11 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

12 Section 1. K.S.A. 8-132 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-132.  
13 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section and K.S.A. 8-1,125, and  
14 amendments thereto, the division of vehicles shall furnish to every owner  
15 whose vehicle shall be registered one license plate for such vehicle. Such  
16 license plate shall have displayed on it the registration number assigned to  
17 the vehicle and to the owner thereof, the name of the state, which may be  
18 abbreviated, and the year or years for which it is issued. The same type of  
19 license plates shall be issued for passenger motor vehicles, rented without  
20 a driver, as are issued for private passenger vehicles.

21 (b) During calendar year 1975 commencing on the effective date of  
22 this act, and during every fifth calendar year thereafter, the division of  
23 vehicles shall furnish one license plate for any type of vehicle an owner  
24 registers or has the registration thereof renewed, but during the succeeding  
25 four-year period following calendar year 1975 and during the succeeding  
26 four-year period following every fifth calendar year subsequent to 1975,  
27 the division of vehicles shall not furnish any license plate for the renewal  
28 of a vehicle's registration. During calendar year 1976 and during each  
29 calendar year thereafter in which a license plate is not issued for the  
30 renewal of registration of a vehicle, the division of vehicles shall furnish  
31 one decal for the license plate issued for a vehicle as provided in K.S.A. 8-  
32 134, and amendments thereto, for each registration and renewal of  
33 registration of such vehicle. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of  
34 this subsection, whenever, in the discretion of the director of vehicles, it is  
35 determined that the license plates currently being issued and displayed are

1 not deteriorating to the extent that their replacement is warranted, the  
2 director may adopt rules and regulations to extend the five-year issuance  
3 cycle provided for in this subsection by one year at a time, and in the same  
4 manner the director may further extend such cycle by one year at a time,  
5 successively as the director determines appropriate. If the cycle is  
6 extended at the expiration of the extended term, new license plates shall  
7 again be issued in the manner and for the term provided in such rules and  
8 regulations, except that the owner of a motor vehicle currently registered  
9 may continue to display the license plate currently being issued and  
10 displayed for a period not to exceed three registration years from the date  
11 of the expiration of the extended term. The division shall furnish one decal  
12 for each such license plate in accordance with the provisions of this  
13 subsection.

14 (c) Any license plate issued pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) may be a  
15 personalized license plate subject to the additional fee set forth in  
16 subsection (d). The division shall allow an applicant for a personalized  
17 license plate to personalize a license plate design established by subsection  
18 (a), (b) or (d).

19 (d) ~~Two~~One personalized license ~~plates~~ *plate* may be issued to any  
20 owner or lessee of a passenger vehicle or a truck licensed for a gross  
21 weight of not more than 20,000 pounds; who makes proper application to  
22 the division of vehicles ~~not less than 60 days prior to such owner's or~~  
23 ~~lessee's~~ *at* renewal of registration date. Such application shall be on a form  
24 prescribed by the division and accompanied by a fee of \$40, which shall  
25 be in addition to any other fee required to renew the registration of such  
26 passenger vehicle under the laws of this state. ~~One~~ Such personalized  
27 license plate shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle ~~and, at the option~~  
28 ~~of the owner or lessee, the other license plate may be displayed on the~~  
29 ~~front of the vehicle, except that no registration decal shall be issued~~  
30 ~~pursuant to K.S.A. 8-134, and amendments thereto, for any such license~~  
31 ~~plate displayed on the front of such vehicle.~~ One personalized license plate  
32 may be issued to any owner of a motorcycle upon proper application in the  
33 same manner provided in this subsection for passenger vehicles and trucks.  
34 The \$40 fee shall be paid only once during the registration period for  
35 which such license plates were issued, and any subsequent renewals during  
36 the registration period shall be subject only to the registration fee  
37 prescribed by K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto. The division shall  
38 design distinctive, personalized license plates to be issued ~~which~~ *that* shall  
39 contain not more than seven letters or numbers on truck or passenger  
40 vehicle license plates and not more than five letters or numbers on  
41 motorcycle license plates, or a combination thereof, to be designated by  
42 the applicant in lieu of the letters and numbers required by K.S.A. 8-147,  
43 and amendments thereto, other than the letters required to designate the

1 county in which such vehicle is registered. Unless the letters or numbers  
2 designated by the applicant have been assigned to another vehicle, or  
3 unless the letters or numbers designated by the applicant have a profane,  
4 vulgar, lewd or indecent meaning or connotation, as determined by the  
5 director of vehicles, the division shall assign such letters or numbers to the  
6 applicant's vehicle, and the letters or numbers, or combination thereof, so  
7 assigned shall be deemed the registration number of such vehicle. Subject  
8 to the foregoing provisions, all license plates issued under this section  
9 shall be manufactured in accordance with K.S.A. 8-147, and amendments  
10 thereto. Such license plates shall be issued for a registration period of five  
11 years commencing in 1985 and each five years thereafter.

12 (e) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations  
13 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, including, without  
14 limitation, rules and regulations concerning: (1) The procedure for insuring  
15 that duplicate license plates are not issued throughout the state; (2) the  
16 procedure for reserving distinctive license plates for the purpose of  
17 obtaining the same on each annual renewal of registration; (3) the  
18 procedure for allowing the transfer of personalized license plates from one  
19 vehicle to another for which such license plates were originally issued,  
20 when the title to the original vehicle has not been transferred and the name  
21 or names of the owner or owners listed on the titles to both vehicles are  
22 identical; and (4) procedures necessary to coordinate this act with other  
23 laws of this state governing registration of vehicles. The director of  
24 vehicles shall remit all moneys received by the division of vehicles under  
25 this section to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of  
26 K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such  
27 remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state  
28 treasury to the credit of the state highway fund.

29 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 8-134 is hereby amended to read as  
30 follows: 8-134. (a) Every vehicle registration under this act shall expire  
31 December 31 of each year, except passenger vehicles and vehicles  
32 provided for in K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto. The registration  
33 of vehicles to which K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto, applies shall  
34 expire in 1982 and thereafter in accordance with the provisions of  
35 subsections (b) and (c). Registration of vehicles shall be renewed annually  
36 upon application by the owner and by payment of the fees required by law.  
37 Except vehicles subject to K.S.A. 8-134a, and amendments thereto, and  
38 passenger vehicles, the renewal shall take effect on January 1 of each year,  
39 but the owner of the vehicle shall have until and including the last day of  
40 February of each year to make application for such renewal. The division  
41 shall issue for such vehicles a February month decal to correspond with  
42 the statutory grace period. Criminal sanctions provided in K.S.A. 8-142,  
43 and amendments thereto, for failure to display any license plate or plates

1 or any registration decal required to be affixed to any such license plate for  
2 the current registration year shall not be enforced until March 1 of each  
3 year. An owner who has made proper application for renewal of  
4 registration of a vehicle prior to January 1, but who has not received the  
5 license plate or registration card for the ensuing year, shall be entitled to  
6 operate or permit the operation of such vehicle upon the highways upon  
7 displaying thereon the license plate issued for the preceding year for such  
8 time as the director of vehicles finds necessary for issuance of such new  
9 license plate.

10 (b) Every passenger vehicle required by this act to be registered,  
11 except as otherwise provided, shall be registered for a period of 12  
12 consecutive months. The division of vehicles, in order to initiate a system  
13 of registering or reregistering passenger vehicles during any month of a  
14 calendar year, may register or reregister a passenger vehicle for less than a  
15 12-month period, prorating the annual registration fee, when in the  
16 director's opinion such proration tends to fulfill the purpose of the monthly  
17 registration system.

18 (c) Passenger vehicle registration, and the authority to legally operate,  
19 use or tow such vehicle on the highway shall expire at 12 midnight on the  
20 last day of the last month of the 12-month period for which such vehicle  
21 was registered, and the owner shall see that such vehicle is reregistered as  
22 required by this act. The director of vehicles shall designate the  
23 registration period for each passenger vehicle in order to as nearly as  
24 feasible equalize registration or reregistration within the 12 months of the  
25 year. Any vehicle after having once been registered shall upon  
26 reregistration, be registered for the same twelve-month period except when  
27 the certificate of title has been transferred as provided by law. In this case,  
28 the vehicle shall be registered by the division of vehicles in accordance  
29 with the system adopted.

30 (d) For the purpose of this act, hearses and electrically propelled  
31 vehicles shall be classified as passenger vehicles.

32 (e) Every owner who registers or reregisters a vehicle in a calendar  
33 year, and in any calendar year in which a license plate is not issued for the  
34 renewal of registration of such vehicle, shall be furnished by the division  
35 one decal for the license plate issued for such vehicle and required by  
36 K.S.A. 8-133, and amendments thereto, to be affixed to the rear of such  
37 vehicle. Such decal shall be affixed to the number plate affixed to the rear  
38 of such vehicle and ~~shall contain the letters designating the county in~~  
39 ~~which such vehicle is registered, as provided in K.S.A. 8-147, and~~  
40 ~~amendments thereto~~, shall indicate the license plate number for which the  
41 decal is to be affixed and shall indicate the year in which such registration  
42 expires. The color of a decal shall be such that it contrasts with the color of  
43 the license plate to which it is to be affixed, and the director of vehicles

1 shall change the color of such decals each year, without duplicating the  
2 same color in any five-year period or such extended period as the director  
3 designates under K.S.A. 8-132(b), and amendments thereto. Such decals  
4 shall be so constructed that once a decal has been affixed to a license plate,  
5 it cannot be removed without destroying the decal, and the surface of such  
6 decals shall be capable of reflecting light. Consistent with the foregoing,  
7 the director of vehicles shall prescribe the size of and material to be used  
8 in the production of such decals, and the director of vehicles shall  
9 designate the location on a number plate where such decal shall be affixed.

10 (f) (1) The owner of a vehicle may, at the time of such registration or  
11 reregistration, purchase a park and recreation motor vehicle permit. Such  
12 permit shall cost \$15 until such time as the amount for such permit is  
13 changed by rules and regulations of the secretary of wildlife and parks.

14 (2) Such permit shall be nontransferable and shall expire on the date  
15 of expiration of the vehicle registration.

16 (3) Except as provided in subsection (f)(4), the county treasurer shall  
17 remit all such moneys paid to the county treasurer to the state treasurer in  
18 accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments  
19 thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall  
20 deposit the entire amount in the state treasury and shall be credited as  
21 provided in K.S.A. 32-991, and amendments thereto.

22 (4) The county treasurer may collect and retain a service charge fee of  
23 up to \$.50 for each park and recreation motor vehicle permit issued or sold  
24 by the county treasurer.

25 (5) As a condition of receiving the park and recreation motor vehicle  
26 permit, the applicant shall consent to the sharing of information, including,  
27 but not limited to, the applicant's name, address, email address and phone  
28 number, with the secretary of wildlife and parks by the division of motor  
29 vehicles.

30 (g) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations  
31 necessary to accomplish the purpose of this act.

32 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 8-147 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-147. (a)  
33 As used in this section, "license plate" means the plate used to externally  
34 evidence registration of a vehicle under chapter 8 of Kansas Statutes  
35 Annotated.

36 (b) Prior to November 1 of each year, the director of vehicles shall  
37 furnish the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed specifications  
38 for the manufacture of all license plates and registration decals, together  
39 with the number required for delivery in the succeeding year for use  
40 during the following year, ~~and~~. The state corporation commission shall  
41 furnish the secretary of revenue with complete and detailed specifications  
42 for the manufacture of identification tags together with the number  
43 required for delivery in the succeeding year for use in the following year.

1 The secretary of revenue shall cause to be manufactured all license plates  
2 and registration decals and state corporation commission identification  
3 tags based on such specifications and estimates. For such purpose, the  
4 secretary of revenue shall enter into a contract for the manufacture of  
5 license plates, tags and decals with any organization or institution  
6 designated in K.S.A. 39-1208, and amendments thereto. Any such contract  
7 may provide that the secretary of revenue shall furnish or cause to be  
8 furnished the materials and supplies necessary for the manufacture and  
9 distribution of license plates, tags and decals if, in the opinion of the  
10 secretary of revenue, a reduction in the cost of manufacturing and  
11 distribution of the license plates, tags and decals under such contract will  
12 be achieved. Subject to the foregoing, the cost to the state for the  
13 manufacture of the license plates, tags and decals pursuant to any contract  
14 entered into under this section shall be substantially equivalent to such  
15 costs under prior contracts, with the cost of license plates increased in the  
16 amount of the cost of coating with reflective material, but any such  
17 contract shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3739, and  
18 amendments thereto.

19 (c) Except as authorized by other provisions of law, license plates,  
20 beginning in the year in which new license plates are issued pursuant to  
21 K.S.A. 8-132, and amendments thereto, shall be lettered, numbered and  
22 designed as provided in this section. Each license plate shall contain a  
23 combination of three letters followed by a combination of three numerals,  
24 except that once all allowable combinations of letters and numerals have  
25 been used, each license plate shall contain an arrangement of numerals or  
26 letters, or both, as shall be assigned by the secretary of revenue. The  
27 arrangement of numerals and letters of license plates shall be uniform  
28 throughout each classification of registration. The secretary may provide  
29 for the arrangement of the numerals and letters in groups or otherwise and  
30 for other distinguishing marks on such license plates. The secretary of  
31 revenue shall design decals to be affixed to the license plates to identify  
32 ~~the county by two letters chosen from the name of the county distinctly~~  
33 ~~indicative of the name of the county in which the vehicle is registered and~~  
34 ~~the date registration is to expire~~ *expiration information consistent with*  
35 *K.S.A. 8-134, and amendments thereto.* The letters and numerals of such  
36 license plates shall be in such contrast of colors to the background of the  
37 license plate as to make such letters and numerals easily ~~read~~ *readable*.

38 (d) As new license plates are issued, the face of every license plate  
39 shall be completely coated with a reflective material. The reflectorized  
40 material shall be of such nature as to provide effective and dependable  
41 performance in the promotion of highway safety and vehicle identification  
42 throughout the service period for which the license plates are issued. The  
43 sum of \$.50 shall be added to the cost of each reflectorized license plate.

1 The director shall change the color of such license plates every time new  
2 license plates are issued under ~~subsection (b) of K.S.A. 8-132(b)~~, and  
3 amendments thereto. ~~The quantity of license plates and registration decals~~  
4 ~~to be furnished each county shall be computed upon the basis of the~~  
5 ~~number of motor vehicles registered and reregistered in such county for~~  
6 ~~the preceding year, and additional license plates and decals shall be~~  
7 ~~furnished as required.~~

8 (e) Any contract entered into pursuant to this section for the  
9 manufacture of license plates and decals shall provide that the license  
10 plates and decals, other than prorate license plates and prorate backing  
11 plates, shall be shipped directly to the treasurer of the county where they  
12 are to be used *or, for digitally-fulfilled license plate order, directly to the*  
13 *customer for whom the plate is issued.* Any such contract for the  
14 manufacture of state corporation commission identification tags shall  
15 provide that such tags shall be shipped directly to the state corporation  
16 commission.

17 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 8-132 and 8-147 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 8-134 are  
18 hereby repealed.

19 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
20 publication in the ~~statute book~~ ***Kansas register.***