

HOUSE BILL No. 2553

By Committee on Transportation

Requested by Representative Helgerson

1-27

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to distinctive license plates;
2 providing for the ~~PBS~~ Kansas **PBS** license plate; *discontinuing the*
3 *issuance of certain distinctive and educational institution license*
4 *plates; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,141 and 8-1,142 and*
5 *repealing the existing sections*};
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 **{New }**Section 1. (a) On and after January 1, 2027, any owner or
9 lessee of one or more passenger vehicles or trucks registered for a gross
10 weight of 20,000 pounds or less who is a resident of Kansas, upon
11 compliance with the provisions of this section, may be issued one ~~PBS~~
12 Kansas **PBS** license plate for each such passenger vehicle or truck. Such
13 license plate shall be issued for the same time as other license plates upon
14 proper registration and payment of the regular license fee as provided in
15 K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto, and the payment to the county
16 treasurer of the logo use royalty payment.

17 (b) Kansas public ~~telecommunications service, incorporated,~~
18 **broadcasting council** may authorize the use of the organization's logo to
19 be affixed on license plates as provided by this section. Any motor vehicle
20 owner or lessee shall pay an amount of not less than \$25 nor more than
21 \$100, as determined by Kansas public ~~telecommunications service,~~
22 ~~incorporated~~ **broadcasting council**, as a logo use royalty payment for each
23 such license plate to be issued. The logo use royalty payment shall be paid
24 to the county treasurer.

25 (c) Any applicant for a license plate authorized by this section may
26 make application for such license plate not less than 60 days prior to such
27 person's renewal of registration date, on a form prescribed and furnished
28 by the director of vehicles, and any applicant for such license plate shall
29 pay to the county treasurer the logo use royalty payment. Application for
30 registration of a passenger vehicle or truck and issuance of the license
31 plate under this section shall be made by the owner or lessee in a manner
32 prescribed by the director of vehicles upon forms furnished by the director.

33 (d) No registration or license plate issued under this section shall be

1 transferable to any other person.

2 (e) The director of vehicles may transfer a ~~PBS~~ Kansas **PBS** license
3 plate from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

4 (f) Renewals of registration under this section shall be made annually,
5 upon payment of the fee prescribed in K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments
6 thereto, and in the manner prescribed in K.S.A. 8-132(b), and amendments
7 thereto. No renewal of registration shall be made to any applicant until
8 such applicant provides to the county treasurer the annual royalty payment.
9 If such annual royalty payment is not made to the county treasurer, the
10 applicant shall be required to comply with the provisions of K.S.A. 8-143,
11 and amendments thereto, and return the license plate to the county
12 treasurer of such person's residence.

13 (g) Kansas public ~~telecommunications service, incorporated~~
14 **broadcasting council**, with the approval of the director of vehicles, shall
15 design a plate to be issued under the provisions of this section.

16 (h) As a condition of receiving the ~~PBS~~ Kansas **PBS** license plate and
17 any subsequent registration renewal of such license plate, the applicant
18 shall consent to the division authorizing the division's release of motor
19 vehicle record information, including the applicant's name, address,
20 royalty payment amount, plate number and vehicle type, to Kansas public
21 ~~telecommunications service, incorporated,~~ **broadcasting council** and the
22 state treasurer.

23 (i) The collection and remittance of annual royalty payments by the
24 county treasurer shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 8-1,141(h),
25 and amendments thereto, *except that payments from the Kansas PBS*
26 *royalty fund shall be made on a monthly basis to the Kansas public*
27 *broadcasting council. The Kansas public broadcasting council shall*
28 *distribute royalty payments to the Kansas public television stations based*
29 *on the zip codes established through the PBS national streaming*
30 *geofencing system to determine which Kansas public television station*
31 *covers the area in which the motor vehicle is registered.*

32 {Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,141 is hereby amended to read as
33 follows: 8-1,141. (a) (1) (A) *Except as provided in paragraph (2), any*
34 *new distinctive license plate authorized for issuance on and after July 1,*
35 *1994, shall be subject to the personalized license plate fee prescribed by*
36 *K.S.A. 8-132(d), and amendments thereto. This section*

37 (B) *Subsections (a)(1)(A), (b)(2), (f) and (g) shall not apply to any*
38 *distinctive license plate authorized prior to July 1, 1994.*

39 (2) ~~On and after January 1, 2025,~~ *Any distinctive license plate may*
40 *be a personalized license plate subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 8-132,*
41 *and amendments thereto. Any personalized distinctive license plate shall*
42 *be subject to a fee that is double the amount prescribed by K.S.A. 8-*
43 *132(d), and amendments thereto.*

1 ***(b) (1) (A) On July 1, 2027, the director of vehicles shall discontinue***
2 ***the issuance of every distinctive license plate that was established by law***
3 ***10 or more years prior to July 1, 2027.***

4 ***(B) On and after July 1, 2028, the director of vehicles shall***
5 ***discontinue the issuance of every distinctive license plate after 10 years***
6 ***from the year that the distinctive license plate was established by law.***

7 ***(C) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to the distinctive***
8 ***plate issued under the provisions of K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,226, and***
9 ***amendments thereto.***

10 ***(2) The director of vehicles shall not issue any new distinctive***
11 ***license plate unless there is a guarantee of an initial issuance of at least***
12 ***250 license plates and subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph (1).***

13 ***(c) The provisions of this section subsections (a), (b)(2), (f) and (g)***
14 ***shall not apply to distinctive license plates issued under the provisions of***
15 ***K.S.A. 8-177d, 8-1,145, 8-1,163, 8-1,166, 8-1,185, 8-1,186, 8-1,187, 8-***
16 ***1,188, 8-1,194, 8-1,195, 8-1,196, 8-1,197, 8-1,198, 8-1,199, 8-1,204 or 8-***
17 ***1,205, and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,221 or 8-***
18 ***1,222, and amendments thereto, except that such distinctive license***
19 ***plates may be personalized license plates pursuant to subsection (a)(2) if***
20 ***an applicant pays the personalized license plate fee prescribed by K.S.A.***
21 ***8-132(d), and amendments thereto.***

22 ***(d) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to distinctive***
23 ***license plates issued under the provisions of K.S.A. 8-1,146, 8-1,148, 8-***
24 ***1,153, 8-1,158 or 8-1,161, and amendments thereto, except that such***
25 ***distinctive license plates may be personalized license plates pursuant to***
26 ***subsection (a)(2) if an applicant pays the personalized license plate fee***
27 ***prescribed by K.S.A. 8-132(d), and amendments thereto.***

28 ***(e) The provisions of subsection (f) shall not apply to distinctive***
29 ***license plates issued under the provisions of K.S.A. 8-1,160 and 8-1,183,***
30 ***and amendments thereto, and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,211 and 8-1,219,***
31 ***and amendments thereto, except that the division shall delay the***
32 ***manufacturing and issuance of such distinctive license plate until the***
33 ***division has received not fewer than 100 orders for such plate, including***
34 ***payment of the personalized license plate fee required under subsection***
35 ***(a). Upon certification by the director of vehicles to the director of***
36 ***accounts and reports that not less than 100 paid orders for such plate***
37 ***have been received, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer***
38 ***\$4,000 from the state highway fund to the distinctive license plate fund.***

39 ***(f) (1) Any person or organization sponsoring any distinctive***
40 ***license plate authorized by the legislature shall submit to the division of***
41 ***vehicles a nonrefundable amount not to exceed \$5,000, to defray the***
42 ***division's cost for developing such distinctive license plate.***

43 ***(2) All moneys received under this subsection shall be remitted by***

1 *the secretary of revenue to the state treasurer in accordance with the*
2 *provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of*
3 *each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount*
4 *in the state treasury to the credit of the distinctive license plate fund*
5 *which is hereby created in the state treasury. All moneys credited to the*
6 *distinctive license plate fund shall be used by the department of revenue*
7 *only for the purpose associated with the development of distinctive*
8 *license plates. All expenditures from the distinctive license plate*
9 *application fee fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation*
10 *acts, upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued*
11 *pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of the department of*
12 *revenue.*

13 *(g) The director of vehicles shall discontinue the issuance of any*
14 *distinctive license plate if:*

15 *(1) Fewer than 250 plates, including annual renewals, are issued*
16 *for that distinctive license plate by the end of the second year of sales;*
17 *and*

18 *(2) fewer than 125 license plates, including annual renewals, are*
19 *issued for that distinctive license plate during any subsequent two-year*
20 *period.*

21 *(h) An application for any distinctive license plate issued and the*
22 *corresponding royalty fee may be collected either by the county treasurer*
23 *or the entity benefiting from the issuance of the distinctive license plate.*
24 *Annual royalty payments collected by the county treasurers shall be*
25 *remitted 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 a segregated royalty fund which shall be*
29 *administered by the state treasurer. All expenditures from the royalty*
30 *fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon*
31 *warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to*
32 *vouchers approved by the state treasurer or the state treasurer's*
33 *designee. Payments from the royalty fund shall be made to the entity*
34 *benefiting from the issuance of the distinctive license plate on a monthly*
35 *basis.*

36 *(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, For any distinctive*
37 *license plate, the division shall produce such distinctive license plate for*
38 *a motorcycle upon request to the division by the organization sponsoring*
39 *the distinctive license plate.*

40 *(j) In addition to any residency requirements for all distinctive*
41 *license plates, any person not a resident of Kansas, serving as a member*
42 *of the armed forces stationed in this state shall be eligible to apply for*
43 *any distinctive license plate as if the individual was a resident of this*

1 *state. Such person shall be eligible to renew the distinctive license plate*
2 *registration as long as the person is still stationed in this state at the time*
3 *the registration is renewed.*

4 *Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,142 is hereby amended to read as*
5 *follows: 8-1,142. (a) As used in this section, "educational institution"*
6 *means:*

7 *(1) Any state educational institution under the control and*
8 *supervision of the state board of regents;*

9 *(2) any municipal university;*

10 *(3) any not-for-profit independent institution of higher education*
11 *that is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by*
12 *the United States department of education in the database maintained by*
13 *such department, is operated independently and not controlled or*
14 *administered by the state or any agency or subdivision thereof,*
15 *maintains open enrollment and the main campus or principal place of*
16 *operation of which is located in Kansas;*

17 *(4) any community college organized and operating under the laws*
18 *of this state; and*

19 *(5) Haskell Indian Nations university.*

20 *(b) Any owner or lessee of one or more passenger vehicles, trucks*
21 *registered for a gross weight of not more than 20,000 pounds or*
22 *motorcycles, who is a resident of Kansas, upon compliance with the*
23 *provisions of this section, may be issued one educational institution*
24 *license plate for each such passenger vehicle, truck or motorcycle. Such*
25 *license plates shall be issued for the same period of time as other license*
26 *plates upon proper registration and payment of the regular license fee as*
27 *provided in K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto, plus the payment of*
28 *an additional fee of \$5 for each plate, and either the payment to the*
29 *county treasurer of the logo use royalty payment established by the*
30 *alumni association or foundation or the presentation of the annual*
31 *emblem use authorization statement provided for in subsection (c).*

32 *(c) Any educational institution may authorize through its officially*
33 *recognized alumni association or foundation the use of such*
34 *institution's official emblems to be affixed on license plates as provided*
35 *by this section. Any royalty payment derived from this section, except*
36 *reasonable administrative costs, shall be used for recognition of*
37 *academic achievement or excellence subject to the approval of the*
38 *chancellor or president of the educational institution. Any motor vehicle*
39 *owner or lessee may annually apply to the alumni association or*
40 *foundation for the use of the institution's emblems. Upon annual*
41 *application and payment to either: (1) The alumni association or*
42 *foundation in an amount of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 as an*
43 *emblem use royalty payment for each educational institution license*

1 *plate to be issued, the alumni association or foundation shall issue to the*
2 *motor vehicle owner or lessee, without further charge, an emblem use*
3 *authorization statement, which shall be presented by the motor vehicle*
4 *owner or lessee at the time of registration; or (2) the county treasurer of*
5 *the logo use royalty payment for each license plate to be issued.*

6 *(d) Any applicant for an educational institution license plate may*
7 *make application for such plates not less than 60 days prior to such*
8 *person's renewal of registration date, on a form prescribed and*
9 *furnished by the director of vehicles, and any applicant for the*
10 *educational institution license plates shall provide either the annual*
11 *emblem use authorization statement provided for in subsection (c) or pay*
12 *to the county treasurer the logo use royalty payment established by the*
13 *alumni association or foundation. Application for registration of a*
14 *passenger vehicle, truck or motorcycle and issuance of the license plates*
15 *under this section shall be made by the owner or lessee in a manner*
16 *prescribed by the director of vehicles upon forms furnished by the*
17 *director.*

18 *(e) No registration or educational institution license plate issued*
19 *under this section shall be transferable to any other person.*

20 *(f) The director of vehicles may transfer educational institution*
21 *license plates from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.*

22 *(g) Renewals of registration under this section shall be made*
23 *annually, upon payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (b), in the*
24 *manner prescribed in K.S.A. 8-132(b), and amendments thereto. No*
25 *renewal of registration shall be made to any applicant until such*
26 *applicant provides to the county treasurer either the annual emblem use*
27 *authorization statement provided for in subsection (c) or the payment of*
28 *the annual emblem use royalty payment established by the alumni*
29 *association or foundation. If such emblem use authorization statement is*
30 *not presented at the time of registration or faxed by the alumni*
31 *association or foundations, or the annual emblem use royalty payment is*
32 *not made to the county treasurer, the applicant shall be required to*
33 *comply with K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto, and return the*
34 *educational institution license plates to the county treasurer of such*
35 *person's residence.*

36 *(h) The director of vehicles shall not issue any educational*
37 *institution license plates for any educational institution, unless such*
38 *educational institution's alumni association or foundation guarantees*
39 *the initial issuance of at least 100 license plates.*

40 *(i) The director of vehicles shall discontinue the issuance of an*
41 *educational institution's license plate authorized under this section if:*

42 *(1) Fewer than 100 educational institution license plates, including*
43 *annual renewals, are issued for an educational institution by the end of*

1 *the second year of sales; and*

2 *(2) fewer than 50 educational institution license plates, including*
3 *annual renewals, are issued for an educational institution during any*
4 *subsequent two-year period.*

5 *(j) Each educational institution's alumni association or foundation*
6 *shall:*

7 *(1) Pay the initial cost of silk-screening for such educational*
8 *license plates; and*

9 *(2) provide to all county treasurers a toll-free telephone number*
10 *where applicants can call the alumni association or foundation for*
11 *information concerning the application process or the status of their*
12 *license plate application.*

13 *(k) Each educational institution's alumni association or*
14 *foundation, with the approval of the director of vehicles and subject to*
15 *the availability of materials and equipment, shall design a license plate*
16 *to be issued under the provisions of this section.*

17 *(l) As a condition of receiving the educational institution license*
18 *plate and any subsequent registration renewal of such plate, the*
19 *applicant shall provide consent to the division authorizing the division's*
20 *release of motor vehicle record information, including the applicant's*
21 *name, address, emblem use royalty payment amount, plate number and*
22 *vehicle type to the relevant educational institution and the state*
23 *treasurer.*

24 *(m) Annual royalty payments collected by county treasurers under*
25 *this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with*
26 *the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. In the case*
27 *of an educational institution that is a state educational institution as*
28 *defined by K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, upon receipt of each*
29 *such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in*
30 *the state treasury to the credit of the appropriate account of the*
31 *restricted fees fund of such state educational institution. In the case of*
32 *an educational institution that is not a state educational institution as*
33 *defined by K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, upon receipt of each*
34 *such remittance, the state treasurer shall remit the entire amount to the*
35 *educational institutions emblem royalty fund, which is hereby created in*
36 *the state treasury and shall be administered by the state treasurer. All*
37 *expenditures from the educational institutions emblem royalty fund shall*
38 *be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the*
39 *director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved*
40 *by the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designee. Payments from*
41 *the educational institutions emblem royalty fund to the respective*
42 *educational institutions shall be made on a monthly basis.*

43 *(n) On and after July 1, 2027, the director of vehicles shall*

1 *discontinue the issuance of every license plate issued pursuant to this*
2 *section.*

3 ***Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-1,141 and 8-1,142 are hereby repealed.***

4 ***Sec. ~~2~~. {5.}*** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
5 publication in the statute book.