

AMENDMENTS TO LB972

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM2260)

Introduced by Sanders, 45.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 **Sec. 48.** Section 60-3,122.03, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
3 amended to read:

4 60-3,122.03 (1) The department shall design license plates to be
5 known as Military Honor Plates.

6 (2)(a) The department shall create a design for each of the
7 following armed forces that honors ~~designs honoring~~ persons who have
8 served or are serving in the:

9 (i) United States Army; τ

10 (ii) United States Army Reserve; τ

11 (iii) United States Navy; τ

12 (iv) United States Navy Reserve; τ

13 (v) United States Marine Corps; τ

14 (vi) United States Marine Corps Reserve; τ

15 (vii) United States Coast Guard; τ

16 (viii) United States Coast Guard Reserve; τ

17 (ix) United States Air Force; τ

18 (x) United States Air Force Reserve; or τ

19 (xi) United States Space Force. τ

20 (b) The department shall create a design for each of the following
21 armed forces that honors persons who have served or are serving in the:

22 (i) Air National Guard; τ or

23 (ii) Army National Guard.

24 ~~(b) The department may begin issuing the license plates with the~~
25 ~~design honoring persons who have served or are serving in the United~~
26 ~~States Space Force on January 1, 2026.~~

1 (3) The design for each of the armed forces specified in subsection
2 (2) of this section shall reflect the ~~There shall be thirteen such~~
3 ~~designs, one for each of such armed forces reflecting its~~ official
4 emblem, official seal, or other official image of such armed forces. The
5 issuance of plates for each of such armed forces shall be conditioned on
6 the approval of the armed forces owning the copyright to the official
7 emblem, official seal, or other official image.

8 (4) ~~(4)(a)~~ The department shall create six additional designs
9 honoring persons who are serving or have served in the armed forces of
10 the United States and who have been awarded the Afghanistan Campaign
11 Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal,
12 Southwest Asia Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, or Inherent Resolve
13 Campaign Medal.

14 ~~(b) A person may apply for license plates with the Inherent Resolve~~
15 ~~Campaign Medal beginning on January 1, 2026.~~

16 (5) The department shall create the following additional designs
17 honoring persons who are serving or have served in the armed forces of
18 the United States ~~and may begin issuing such license plates on January 1,~~
19 ~~2026:~~

20 (a) One design that includes the word "veteran"; and

21 (b) One design that includes the word "veteran" and the
22 internationally accepted wheelchair symbol specified in section 60-3,113.

23 (6)(a) A person may qualify for a Military Honor Plate by
24 registering with the Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section
25 80-414. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall verify the applicant's
26 eligibility for a plate created pursuant to this section by consulting
27 the registry established by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

28 (b) To be eligible for the license plates described in subdivision
29 (5)(b) of this section, in addition to any other eligibility requirements
30 for such license plates under this section:

31 (i) An application and proof of disability in the form and with the

1 information required by section 60-3,113.02 shall be submitted before
2 issuance or reissuance of such license plates; and

3 (ii) The handicap or disability of the handicapped or disabled
4 person shall be certified as permanent.

5 (7) The design shall be selected on the basis of limiting the
6 manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the
7 amount charged for license plates pursuant to section 60-3,102. The
8 Department of Motor Vehicles shall make applications available for each
9 type of plate when it is designed. The department may adopt and
10 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section and section
11 60-3,122.04.

12 (8) One type of Military Honor Plates shall be alphanumeric plates.
13 The department shall:

14 (a) Assign a designation up to five characters; and

15 (b) Not use a county designation.

16 (9) One type of Military Honor Plates shall be personalized message
17 plates. Such plates shall be issued subject to the same conditions
18 specified for personalized message license plates in section 60-3,118,
19 except that a maximum of five characters may be used.

20 (10) The department shall cease to issue Military Honor Plates
21 beginning with the next license plate issuance cycle after the license
22 plate issuance cycle that begins in 2023 pursuant to section 60-3,101 if
23 the total number of registered vehicles that obtained such plates is less
24 than one hundred per year within any prior consecutive two-year period.

25 **Sec. 49.** Section 60-3,122.04, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
26 amended to read:

27 60-3,122.04 (1)(a) An eligible person may apply to the department
28 for Military Honor Plates in lieu of regular license plates on an
29 application prescribed and provided by the department for any motor
30 vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, except for a motor vehicle or trailer
31 registered under section 60-3,198. An applicant receiving a Military

1 Honor Plate for a farm truck with a gross weight of over sixteen tons
2 shall affix the appropriate tonnage decal to the plate.

3 (b) The department shall make forms available for such applications
4 through the county treasurers.

5 (c) The license plates shall be issued upon payment of the license
6 fee described in subsection (2) of this section and verification by the
7 department of an applicant's eligibility using the registry established
8 by the Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section 80-414. To be
9 eligible an applicant shall be:

10 (i) Active duty or reserve duty armed forces personnel serving in
11 any of the armed forces listed in subsection (2) of section 60-3,122.03
12 or a veteran of any of such armed forces who was discharged or otherwise
13 separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under
14 honorable conditions);

15 (ii) A current or former commissioned officer of the United States
16 Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
17 who has been detailed directly to any branch of such armed forces for
18 service on active or reserve duty and who was discharged or otherwise
19 separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under
20 honorable conditions) as proven with valid orders from the United States
21 Department of Defense, a statement of service provided by the United
22 States Public Health Service, or a report of transfer or discharge
23 provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

24 (iii) A person who is serving or has served in the armed forces of
25 the United States and who has been awarded the Afghanistan Campaign
26 Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal,
27 Southwest Asia Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, or Inherent Resolve
28 Campaign Medal;

29 (iv) For the license plate described in subdivision (5)(a) of
30 section 60-3,122.03, a person who is serving or has served in the armed
31 forces of the United States;

1 (v) For the license plate described in subdivision (5)(b) of section
2 60-3,122.03, a person who is serving or has served in the armed forces of
3 the United States and is permanently handicapped or disabled; or

4 (vi) ~~A Beginning January 1, 2026,~~ a trust that owns the motor
5 vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer if a designated beneficiary of the trust
6 qualifies under this subdivision (1)(c).

7 (d) Any person using Military Honor Plates shall surrender the
8 plates to the county treasurer if such person is no longer eligible for
9 the plates. Regular plates shall be issued to any such person upon
10 surrender of the Military Honor Plates for a three-dollar transfer fee
11 and forfeiture of any of the remaining annual fee. The three-dollar
12 transfer fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
13 Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund.

14 (2)(a) In addition to all other fees required for registration under
15 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance
16 or renewal of alphanumeric Military Honor Plates shall be accompanied by
17 a fee of five dollars. County treasurers collecting such fee fees
18 pursuant to this subdivision shall remit such fee ~~them~~ to the State
19 Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit such fee to the designated
20 recipient specified in subdivision (c) of this subsection. ~~five dollars~~
21 ~~of the fee to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund.~~

22 (b) In addition to all other fees required for registration under
23 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance
24 or renewal of personalized message Military Honor Plates shall be
25 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. County treasurers collecting such
26 fee fees pursuant to this subdivision shall remit such fee ~~them~~ to the
27 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit twenty-five percent of
28 such the fee for ~~initial issuance and renewal of such plates~~ to the
29 Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund and seventy-five percent of such
30 the fee to the designated recipient specified in subdivision (c) of this
31 subsection. ~~Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund.~~

1 (c) The designated recipient for the fee paid for any license plate
2 described in:

3 (i) Subdivision (2)(a) or subsection (4) or (5) of section
4 60-3,122.03 is the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund; or

5 (ii) Subdivision (2)(b) of section 60-3,122.03 is (A) prior to
6 January 1, 2027, the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund and
7 (B) beginning on January 1, 2027, the Military Department Aid Fund.

8 (3)(a) When the department receives an application for Military
9 Honor Plates, the department may deliver the plates and registration
10 certificate to the applicant by United States mail or to the county
11 treasurer of the county in which the motor vehicle or trailer is
12 registered and the delivery of the plates and registration certificate
13 shall be made through a secure process and system. If delivery of the
14 plates and registration certificate is made by the department to the
15 applicant, the department may charge a postage and handling fee in an
16 amount not more than necessary to recover the cost of postage and
17 handling for the specific items mailed to the registrant. The department
18 shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Department
19 of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund. The county treasurer or the department shall
20 issue Military Honor Plates in lieu of regular license plates when the
21 applicant complies with the other provisions of the Motor Vehicle
22 Registration Act for registration of the motor vehicle or trailer. If
23 Military Honor Plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the licensee shall
24 be issued replacement license plates upon request pursuant to section
25 60-3,157.

26 (b) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary
27 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to
28 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No
29 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance
30 of a temporary license sticker under this subdivision. The department
31 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county

1 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and
2 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of
3 temporary license stickers.

4 (4) The owner of a motor vehicle or trailer bearing Military Honor
5 Plates may apply to the county treasurer to have such plates transferred
6 to a motor vehicle or trailer other than the motor vehicle or trailer for
7 which such plates were originally purchased if such motor vehicle or
8 trailer is owned by the owner of the plates. The owner may have the
9 unused portion of the fee for the plates credited to the other motor
10 vehicle or trailer which will bear the plates at the rate of eight and
11 one-third percent per month for each full month left in the registration
12 period. Application for such transfer shall be accompanied by a fee of
13 three dollars. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be
14 remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Department of Motor
15 Vehicles Cash Fund.

16 (5) If the cost of manufacturing Military Honor Plates at any time
17 exceeds the amount charged for license plates pursuant to section
18 60-3,102, any money to be credited to the designated recipient specified
19 in subdivision (2)(c) of this section Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System
20 Operation Fund shall instead be credited first to the Highway Trust Fund
21 in an amount equal to the difference between the manufacturing costs of
22 Military Honor Plates and the amount charged pursuant to section 60-3,102
23 with respect to such plates and the remainder shall be credited to the
24 designated recipient specified in subdivision (2)(c) of this section
25 Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund.

26 (6) If the director discovers evidence of fraud in an application
27 for Military Honor Plates or that the holder is no longer eligible to
28 have Military Honor Plates, the director may summarily cancel the plates
29 and registration and send notice of the cancellation to the holder of the
30 license plates.

31 **Sec. 75. (1) The Military Department Aid Fund is created. The**

1 Adjutant General shall administer the fund. The fund shall consist of
2 gifts, grants, bequests, money received from any public or private
3 source, money credited pursuant to section 60-3,122.04, and money
4 transferred to the fund by the Legislature.

5 (2) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
6 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
7 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Any interest
8 or realized capital gains from any such investment shall be credited to
9 the Military Department Aid Fund.

10 (3) The Military Department Aid Fund shall only be used pursuant to
11 this section.

12 (4) The Adjutant General may award grants from the Military
13 Department Aid Fund pursuant to section 76 of this act.

14 **Sec. 76.** (1) Beginning on January 1, 2027, a member of the Military
15 Department may apply to the Adjutant General for a grant under this
16 section. The Adjutant General shall prescribe the form for the
17 application.

18 (2) The Adjutant General may award a grant to any member of the
19 Military Department who applies under this section and meets the
20 qualifications of an eligible grant recipient that are adopted and
21 promulgated in rules and regulations by the Adjutant General.

22 (3) The State of Nebraska shall not require or request any recipient
23 of a grant awarded under this section to reimburse any money received
24 from such grant.

25 (4) No later than January 1, 2027, the Adjutant General shall adopt
26 and promulgate rules and regulations for the qualifications of an
27 eligible grant recipient. Any such rules and regulations shall limit the
28 eligible recipients of any grant awarded under this section to needy
29 uniformed service members of the Military Department.

30 (5) The Adjutant General may adopt and promulgate rules and
31 regulations to carry out this section.

- 1 2. Renumber the remaining sections and correct internal references
- 2 accordingly.
- 3 3. Correct the operative date and repealer sections so that the
- 4 sections added by this amendment become operative on their effective
- 5 date.