

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1092

Introduced by Bostar, 29.

Read first time January 15, 2026

Committee:

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to license plates; to amend section
2 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide for Back
3 the Blue License Plates and Iconic-Design License Plates; to provide
4 duties to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Nebraska State
5 Patrol, and the Department of Health and Human Services; to create
6 funds; to provide for grants to certain associations and providers
7 as prescribed; to eliminate obsolete provisions; and to repeal the
8 original section.

9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025,
2 is amended to read:

3 60-3,163.02 The department shall issue the following types of
4 alternate license plates pursuant to this section and sections 60-3,104,
5 60-3,163, and 60-3,163.01:

6 (1) Arbor Day Plates. The department shall design such license
7 plates in consultation with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and a
8 nonprofit organization holding a certificate of exemption under section
9 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with a mission to inspire people
10 to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. The design of such license plates
11 shall represent the history and importance of Arbor Day in Nebraska. The
12 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Arbor Day
13 Plates is the Home of Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund. ~~A person may apply for~~
14 ~~Arbor Day Plates beginning on January 1, 2026;~~

15 (2) Back the Blue License Plates. The department shall design such
16 license plates in consultation with associations that represent personnel
17 of any law enforcement agency in Nebraska. The design of such license
18 plates shall represent support for law enforcement personnel. The
19 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Back the Blue
20 License Plates is the Back the Blue Cash Fund. A person may apply for
21 Back the Blue License Plates beginning on January 1, 2027;

22 (3) (2) Breast Cancer Awareness Plates. The department shall design
23 such license plates to include a pink ribbon and the words "early
24 detection saves lives" along the bottom of the license plate. The
25 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Breast Cancer
26 Awareness Plates is the University of Nebraska Medical Center for the
27 breast cancer navigator program;

28 (4) (3) Choose Life License Plates. The department shall design such
29 license plates to reflect support for the protection of Nebraska's
30 children. The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for
31 Choose Life License Plates is the Health and Human Services Cash Fund to

1 supplement federal funds available to the Department of Health and Human
2 Services for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, 42
3 U.S.C. 601 et seq.;

4 (5) (4) Czech Heritage Plates. The department, in consultation with
5 the Czech Honorary Consul of Nebraska, shall design such license plates
6 to reflect Czech heritage in Nebraska. The designated recipient for
7 alternate license plate fees for Czech Heritage Plates is the Department
8 of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund;

9 (6) (5) Donate Life Plates. The department shall design such license
10 plates to reflect support for organ and tissue donation, registration as
11 a donor on the Donor Registry of Nebraska, and the federally designated
12 organ procurement organization for Nebraska. The designated recipient for
13 alternate license plate fees for Donate Life Plates is the Organ and
14 Tissue Donor Awareness and Education Fund;

15 (7) (6) Down Syndrome Awareness Plates. The department shall design
16 such license plates to include the words "Down syndrome awareness" inside
17 a heart-shaped yellow and blue ribbon. The designated recipient for
18 alternate license plate fees for Down Syndrome Awareness Plates is the
19 University of Nebraska Medical Center for the Down Syndrome Clinic;

20 (8) Iconic-Design License Plates. For such license plates:

21 (a) The designs of the license plates shall be inspired by license
22 plates that were previously issued by the State of Nebraska but have
23 since been retired.

24 (b)(i) The department shall design the following two types of
25 Iconic-Design License Plates:

26 (A) Iconic-Design Black-Background License Plates. The design of
27 such license plates shall be inspired by a license plate that used a
28 plain black background and only white characters; and

29 (B) Iconic-Design White-Background License Plates. The design of
30 such license plates shall be inspired by a license plate that used a
31 plain white background and only black characters.

1 (ii) The department may design the following two types of Iconic-
2 Design License Plates:

3 (A) Iconic-Design Option One License Plates. If the department
4 designs such license plates, the design of such license plates shall be
5 inspired by any license plate that was previously issued by the State of
6 Nebraska but has since been retired; and

7 (B) Iconic-Design Option Two License Plates. If the department
8 designs such license plates, the design of such license plates shall be
9 inspired by any license plate that was previously issued by the State of
10 Nebraska but has since been retired.

11 (c) Each application for initial issuance or renewal of alphanumeric
12 or personalized message Iconic-Design License Plates shall be accompanied
13 by a fee of one hundred dollars.

14 (d) The designated recipient for Iconic-Design License Plates is the
15 Developmental Disabilities Provider Capital and Equipment Maintenance
16 Cash Fund.

17 (e)(i) A person may apply for Iconic-Design Black-Background License
18 Plates or Iconic-Design White-Background License Plates beginning on
19 January 1, 2027.

20 (ii) A person may apply for Iconic-Design Option One License Plates
21 or Iconic-Design Option Two License Plates beginning on an implementation
22 date designated by the director for such type of license plate.

23 (9) (7) Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates. The department
24 shall design such license plates to include a blue background with the
25 head of an otter surfacing above water surrounded by the words "Josh the
26 Otter-Be Safe Around Water". The designated recipient for alternate
27 license plate fees for Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates is the
28 Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund;

29 (10) (8) Mountain Lion Conservation Plates. The department shall
30 design such license plates to reflect support for the conservation of the
31 mountain lion population. The designated recipient for alternate license

1 plate fees for Mountain Lion Conservation Plates is the Game and Parks
2 Commission Educational Fund;

3 (11) (9) Native American Cultural Awareness and History Plates. The
4 department, in consultation with the Commission on Indian Affairs, shall
5 design license plates that reflect the unique culture and history of
6 Native American tribes historically and currently located in Nebraska.
7 The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Native
8 American Cultural Awareness and History Plates is the Native American
9 Scholarship and Leadership Fund;

10 (12)(a) (10)(a) Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates. The department
11 shall design such license plates to (i) include the word "Cornhuskers" or
12 "Huskers" prominently in the design, (ii) use scarlet and cream colors in
13 the design or such other similar colors as the department determines to
14 best represent the official team colors of the University of Nebraska
15 Cornhuskers athletic programs and to provide suitable reflection and
16 contrast, (iii) use cream or a similar color for the background of the
17 design and scarlet or a similar color for the printing, and (iv) create a
18 design reflecting support for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers
19 athletic programs in consultation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
20 Athletic Department.

21 (b) Alphanumeric Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates shall (i) be
22 consecutively numbered beginning with the number one and use numbers that
23 are a size that maximizes legibility, and (ii) not use a county
24 designation or any characters other than numbers on the spirit plates.

25 (c) Personalized message Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates shall be
26 issued subject to the same conditions specified for personalized message
27 license plates in subsection (2) of section 60-3,118. The characters used
28 shall consist only of letters, numerals, or a combination of letters and
29 numerals of the same size and design specified in section 60-3,100. A
30 maximum of seven characters may be used.

31 (d) Each application for initial issuance or renewal of Nebraska

1 Cornhusker Spirit Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy
2 dollars. Fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be remitted to
3 the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit sixty percent of
4 the fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund and forty percent
5 of the fee to the designated recipient for alternate license plate fees.

6 (e) The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for
7 Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates is the Highway Trust Fund;

8 (13) (11) Nebraska History Plates. The department shall design such
9 license plates in consultation with the Nebraska State Historical Society
10 to reflect the importance of historical preservation in Nebraska and the
11 value of our shared Nebraska history. The designated recipient for
12 alternate license plate fees for Nebraska History Plates is the Support
13 Nebraska History Cash Fund;

14 (14) (12) Pets for Vets Plates. The department shall design such
15 license plates to support veterans and companion or therapy pet animals.
16 The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Pets for
17 Vets Plates is the Pets for Vets Cash Fund;

18 (15) (13) Prostate Cancer Awareness Plates. The department shall
19 design such license plates to include a light blue ribbon and the words
20 "early detection saves lives" along the bottom of the license plate. The
21 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Prostate Cancer
22 Awareness Plates is the University of Nebraska Medical Center for the
23 Nebraska Prostate Cancer Research Program;

24 (16) (14) Sammy's Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer
25 awareness. The department shall design such license plates to include a
26 blue handprint over a yellow ribbon and the words "childhood cancer
27 awareness". The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for
28 Sammy's Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer awareness is the
29 University of Nebraska Medical Center for pediatric cancer research;

30 (17) (15) Support the Arts Plates. The department shall design such
31 license plates in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council to reflect

1 support for the arts in Nebraska. The designated recipient for alternate
2 license plate fees for Support the Arts Plates is the Support the Arts
3 Cash Fund;

4 (18)(a) (16)(a) Support Our Troops Plates. The department shall
5 design such license plates to reflect support for troops from all
6 branches of the armed forces. The designated recipient for alternate
7 license plate fees for Support Our Troops Plates is the Veterans
8 Employment Program Fund.

9 (b)(i) Each application for initial issuance or renewal of
10 alphanumeric Support Our Troops Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of
11 five dollars. The State Treasurer shall credit five dollars of the fee to
12 the designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Support Our
13 Troops Plates.

14 (ii) Each application for initial issuance or renewal of
15 personalized message Support Our Troops Plates shall be accompanied by a
16 fee of seventy dollars. Twenty-five percent of such fee shall be credited
17 to the Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund and seventy-five percent of
18 such fee shall be credited to the designated recipient for alternate
19 license plate fees for Support Our Troops Plates;

20 (19) (17) The Good Life Is Outside Plates. The department shall
21 design such license plates to reflect the importance of safe walking and
22 biking in Nebraska and the value of our recreational trails. The
23 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for The Good Life
24 Is Outside Plates is the Game and Parks State Park Improvement and
25 Maintenance Fund for the purpose of trail improvement and maintenance;
26 and

27 (20) (18) Wildlife Conservation Plates. The department shall create
28 no more than three designs for such license plates to reflect support for
29 the conservation of Nebraska wildlife, including sandhill cranes, bighorn
30 sheep, and ornate box turtles. The designated recipient for alternate
31 license plate fees for Wildlife Conservation Plates is the Wildlife

1 Conservation Fund.

2 Sec. 2. (1) The Back the Blue Cash Fund is created and shall be
3 administered by the Nebraska State Patrol. The fund shall consist of
4 gifts, grants, bequests, money received from any public or private
5 source, money credited pursuant to section 60-3,163.02, and money
6 transferred to the fund by the Legislature.

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

12 (3)(a) The fund shall only be used pursuant to this section.

13 (b) The Nebraska State Patrol may award grants from the fund
14 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

15 (c) The fund shall not be used for buying any equipment for or
16 paying any salary or cost for the Nebraska State Patrol.

17 Sec. 3. (1) For purposes of this section:

18 (a) Eligible purpose means:

19 (i) Providing support to any:

20 (A) Injured law enforcement personnel;

21 (B) Spouse of any injured or deceased law enforcement personnel; or

22 (C) Child of any injured or deceased law enforcement personnel if
23 such child is under the age of nineteen years old; or

24 (ii) Conducting any charitable activity that supports the residents
25 of this state; and

26 (b) Qualified applicant means any association that represents
27 personnel of any law enforcement agency in this state.

28 (2) A qualified applicant may apply to the Nebraska State Patrol for
29 a grant under this section. The Nebraska State Patrol shall prescribe the
30 form for the application.

31 (3) The Nebraska State Patrol may award a grant to any qualified

1 applicant who applies under this section for an eligible purpose.

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

5 (5) No later than January 1, 2027, the Nebraska State Patrol shall
6 prescribe the form for grant applications under this section.

7 (6) The Nebraska State Patrol may adopt and promulgate rules and
8 regulations to carry out this section.

9 **Sec. 4.** (1) The Developmental Disabilities Provider Capital and
10 Equipment Maintenance Cash Fund is created and shall be administered by
11 the Department of Health and Human Services. The fund shall consist of
12 gifts, grants, bequests, money received from any public or private
13 source, money credited pursuant to section 60-3,163.02, and money
14 transferred to the fund by the Legislature.

15 (2) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
16 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
17 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

18 (3)(a) The fund shall only be used pursuant to this section.

19 (b) The Department of Health and Human Services may award grants
20 from the fund pursuant to section 5 of this act.

21 (c) The fund shall not be used for the general operation or
22 administration of the state's developmental disabilities program.

23 **Sec. 5.** (1) For purposes of this section:

24 (a) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

25 (b) Eligible purpose means any upgrade, modernization, renovation,
26 maintenance, or new purchase of the following that are used by a provider
27 to provide any developmental disability service:

28 (i) The transportation fleet that is used to provide support to or
29 to transport any individual with a developmental disability;

30 (ii) Any physical infrastructure or safety feature, including any
31 feature that is used to reinforce any space that is used to provide any

1 developmental disability service, safety glass, any perimeter security
2 feature, and any other physical improvement that is meant to protect any
3 client or staff member of a provider;

4 (iii) Any technology or remote-support infrastructure that is used
5 to support or monitor any client, staff member, or facility
6 infrastructure of a provider. Such technology or remote-support
7 infrastructure includes any sensor, smart-home automation feature, and
8 broadband infrastructure; and

9 (iv) Any facility to increase capacity for clients or optimize space
10 that is available for clients or the provision of any developmental
11 disability service, including any facility floorplan efficiency
12 improvement and installation of any amenity or restroom; and

13 (c) Provider means any entity that is under contract with the
14 department to provide any specialized or assisted service under section
15 83-1217.

16 (2) A provider may apply to the department for a grant under this
17 section. The department shall prescribe the form for the application.

18 (3) The department may award a grant to any qualified applicant who
19 applies under this section for an eligible purpose.

20 (4) No later than January 1, 2027, the department shall prescribe
21 the form for grant applications under this section.

22 (5) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
23 carry out this section.

24 **Sec. 6.** Original section 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement,
25 2025, is repealed.