

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1099

Introduced by Hansen, 16.

Read first time January 16, 2026

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to license plates; to amend section 66-4,100,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and section
- 3 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide for
- 4 Husker Red License Plates; to provide duties to the Department of
- 5 Motor Vehicles; to change provisions relating to the Highway Cash
- 6 Fund and the Roads Operations Cash Fund; to eliminate obsolete
- 7 provisions; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
- 8 sections.
- 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 plates shall
11 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) Breast Cancer Awareness Plates. The department shall design such
16 license plates to include a pink ribbon and the words "early detection
17 saves lives" along the bottom of the license plate. The designated
18 recipient for alternate license plate fees for Breast Cancer Awareness
19 Plates is the University of Nebraska Medical Center for the breast cancer
20 navigator program;

21 (3) Choose Life License Plates. The department shall design such
22 license plates to reflect support for the protection of Nebraska's
23 children. The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for
24 Choose Life License Plates is the Health and Human Services Cash Fund to
25 supplement federal funds available to the Department of Health and Human
26 Services for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, 42
27 U.S.C. 601 et seq.;

28 (4) Czech Heritage Plates. The department, in consultation with the
29 Czech Honorary Consul of Nebraska, shall design such license plates to
30 reflect Czech heritage in Nebraska. The designated recipient for
31 alternate license plate fees for Czech Heritage Plates is the Department

1 of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund;

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

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

13 (7) Husker Red License Plates. The department shall design such
14 license plates so that (a) a scarlet-colored background covers the entire
15 front of the license plates and (b) the license plate designations use
16 cream-colored characters. The designated recipient for alternate license
17 plate fees for Husker Red License Plates is the Highway Cash Fund. A
18 person may apply for Husker Red License Plates beginning on January 1,
19 2027;

20 (8) {7} Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates. The department
21 shall design such license plates to include a blue background with the
22 head of an otter surfacing above water surrounded by the words "Josh the
23 Otter-Be Safe Around Water". The designated recipient for alternate
24 license plate fees for Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates is the
25 Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund;

26 (9) {8} Mountain Lion Conservation Plates. The department shall
27 design such license plates to reflect support for the conservation of the
28 mountain lion population. The designated recipient for alternate license
29 plate fees for Mountain Lion Conservation Plates is the Game and Parks
30 Commission Educational Fund;

31 (10) {9} Native American Cultural Awareness and History Plates. The

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

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

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

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

28 (d) Each application for initial issuance or renewal of Nebraska
29 Cornhusker Spirit Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy
30 dollars. Fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be remitted to
31 the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit sixty percent of

1 the fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund and forty percent
2 of the fee to the designated recipient for alternate license plate fees.

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

5 (12) ~~(11)~~ Nebraska History Plates. The department shall design such
6 license plates in consultation with the Nebraska State Historical Society
7 to reflect the importance of historical preservation in Nebraska and the
8 value of our shared Nebraska history. The designated recipient for
9 alternate license plate fees for Nebraska History Plates is the Support
10 Nebraska History Cash Fund;

11 (13) ~~(12)~~ Pets for Vets Plates. The department shall design such
12 license plates to support veterans and companion or therapy pet animals.
13 The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Pets for
14 Vets Plates is the Pets for Vets Cash Fund;

15 (14) ~~(13)~~ Prostate Cancer Awareness Plates. The department shall
16 design such license plates to include a light blue ribbon and the words
17 "early detection saves lives" along the bottom of the license plate. The
18 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for Prostate Cancer
19 Awareness Plates is the University of Nebraska Medical Center for the
20 Nebraska Prostate Cancer Research Program;

21 (15) ~~(14)~~ Sammy's Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer
22 awareness. The department shall design such license plates to include a
23 blue handprint over a yellow ribbon and the words "childhood cancer
24 awareness". The designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for
25 Sammy's Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer awareness is the
26 University of Nebraska Medical Center for pediatric cancer research;

27 (16) ~~(15)~~ Support the Arts Plates. The department shall design such
28 license plates in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council to reflect
29 support for the arts in Nebraska. The designated recipient for alternate
30 license plate fees for Support the Arts Plates is the Support the Arts
31 Cash Fund;

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

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

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

17 (18) ~~(17)~~ The Good Life Is Outside Plates. The department shall
18 design such license plates to reflect the importance of safe walking and
19 biking in Nebraska and the value of our recreational trails. The
20 designated recipient for alternate license plate fees for The Good Life
21 Is Outside Plates is the Game and Parks State Park Improvement and
22 Maintenance Fund for the purpose of trail improvement and maintenance;
23 and

24 (19) ~~(18)~~ Wildlife Conservation Plates. The department shall create
25 no more than three designs for such license plates to reflect support for
26 the conservation of Nebraska wildlife, including sandhill cranes, bighorn
27 sheep, and ornate box turtles. The designated recipient for alternate
28 license plate fees for Wildlife Conservation Plates is the Wildlife
29 Conservation Fund.

30 **Sec. 2.** Section 66-4,100, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

1 66-4,100 (1) The Highway Cash Fund and the Roads Operations Cash
2 Fund are hereby created. Such funds may include money credited from any
3 source, including section 60-3,163.02. If bonds are issued pursuant to
4 subsection (2) of section 39-2223, the balance of the share of the
5 Highway Trust Fund allocated to the Department of Transportation and
6 deposited into the Highway Restoration and Improvement Bond Fund as
7 provided in subsection (8) of section 39-2215 and the balance of the
8 money deposited in the Highway Restoration and Improvement Bond Fund as
9 provided in section 39-2215.01 shall be transferred by the State
10 Treasurer, on or before the last day of each month, to the Highway Cash
11 Fund. If no bonds are issued pursuant to subsection (2) of section
12 39-2223, the share of the Highway Trust Fund allocated to the Department
13 of Transportation shall be transferred by the State Treasurer on or
14 before the last day of each month to the Highway Cash Fund.

15 (2) The Legislature may direct the State Treasurer to transfer funds
16 from the Highway Cash Fund to the Roads Operations Cash Fund. Both funds
17 shall be expended by the department for:

18 (a) Acquiring ~~(1) for acquiring~~ real estate, road materials,
19 equipment, and supplies to be used in the construction, reconstruction,
20 improvement, and maintenance of state highways; τ

21 (b) The ~~(2) for the~~ construction, reconstruction, improvement, and
22 maintenance of state highways, including grading, drainage, structures,
23 surfacing, roadside development, landscaping, and other incidentals
24 necessary for proper completion and protection of state highways as the
25 department shall, after investigation, find and determine shall be for
26 the best interests of the highway system of the state, either independent
27 of or in conjunction with federal-aid money for highway purposes; τ

28 (c) The ~~(3) for the~~ share of the department of the cost of
29 maintenance of state aid bridges; τ

30 (d) Planning ~~(4) for planning~~ studies in conjunction with federal
31 highway funds for the purpose of analyzing traffic problems and financial

1 conditions and problems relating to state, county, township, municipal,
2 federal, and all other roads in the state and for incidental costs in
3 connection with the federal-aid grade crossing program for roads not on
4 state highways; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

5 (e) Tests ~~(5) for tests~~ and research by the department or
6 proportionate costs of membership, tests, and research of highway
7 organizations when participated in by the highway departments of other
8 states; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

9 (f) The ~~(6) for the~~ payment of expenses and costs of the Board of
10 Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents as set forth
11 in section 39-2310; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

12 (g) Support ~~(7) for support~~ of the public transportation assistance
13 program established under section 13-1209 and the intercity bus system
14 assistance program established under section 13-1213; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

15 (h) Purchasing ~~(8) for purchasing~~ from political or governmental
16 subdivisions or public corporations, pursuant to section 39-1307, any
17 federal-aid transportation funds available to such entities; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

18 (i) Costs ~~(9) for costs~~ related to the administration of the
19 Division of Aeronautics of the Department of Transportation as specified
20 in section 3-107; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

21 (j) Furnishing ~~(10) for furnishing~~ the Nebraska Broadband Office
22 with necessary office space, furniture, equipment, and supplies as well
23 as providing administrative and budgetary support, including salaries for
24 professional, technical, and clerical assistants, as provided in section
25 81-702; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

26 (k) The ~~(11) for the~~ County Bridge Match Program.

27 ~~The State Treasurer shall transfer four million dollars from the~~
28 ~~Roads Operations Cash Fund to the Transportation Infrastructure Bank Fund~~
29 ~~on or before June 30, 2024, on such dates and in such amounts as directed~~
30 ~~by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of~~
31 ~~Administrative Services. The money shall be used for the County Bridge~~

1 ~~Match Program. The State Treasurer shall transfer four million dollars~~
2 ~~from the Roads Operations Cash Fund to the Transportation Infrastructure~~
3 ~~Bank Fund on or before June 30, 2025, on such dates and in such amounts~~
4 ~~as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the~~
5 ~~Department of Administrative Services. The money shall be used for the~~
6 ~~County Bridge Match Program.~~

7 (3) Any money in the Highway Cash Fund and the Roads Operations Cash
8 Fund not needed for current operations of the department shall, as
9 directed by the Director-State Engineer to the State Treasurer, be
10 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
11 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act, subject to
12 approval by the board of each investment. All income received as a result
13 of such investment shall be placed in the Highway Cash Fund.

14 **Sec. 3.** Original section 66-4,100, Revised Statutes Cumulative
15 Supplement, 2024, and section 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement,
16 2025, are repealed.