

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 965

Introduced by Holdcroft, 36; Erdman, 47; Halloran, 33; Lowe, 37; Murman,
38; Riepe, 12.

Read first time January 04, 2024

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to license plates; to amend sections 60-3,113
2 and 60-3,122.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections
3 60-3,122.03, 60-3,123, 60-3,124, and 60-3,125, Revised Statutes
4 Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to change and provide provisions
5 relating to Military Honor Plates, prisoner-of-war license plates,
6 disabled veteran license plates, and Purple Heart license plates; to
7 provide duties to the Department of Motor Vehicles; to harmonize
8 provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 60-3,113, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 60-3,113 (1) The department shall, without the payment of any fee
4 except the taxes and fees required by sections 60-3,102, 60-3,185,
5 60-3,190, and 60-3,191, issue license plates for one motor vehicle not
6 used for hire and a license plate for one autocycle or motorcycle not
7 used for hire to:

8 (a) Any permanently handicapped or disabled person or his or her
9 parent, legal guardian, foster parent, or agent upon application and
10 proof of a permanent handicap or disability; or

11 (b) A trust that ~~which~~ owns the motor vehicle, autocycle, or
12 motorcycle if a designated beneficiary of the trust qualifies under
13 subdivision (a) of this subsection.

14 An application and proof of disability in the form and with the
15 information required by section 60-3,113.02 shall be submitted before
16 license plates are issued or reissued.

17 (2) The license plate or plates shall carry the internationally
18 accepted wheelchair symbol, which symbol is a representation of a person
19 seated in a wheelchair surrounded by a border six units wide by seven
20 units high, and such other letters or numbers as the director prescribes.
21 Such license plate or plates shall be used by such person in lieu of the
22 usual license plate or plates.

23 (3) The department shall compile and maintain a registry of the
24 names, addresses, and license numbers of all persons who obtain special
25 license plates pursuant to this section and license plates with the
26 internationally accepted wheelchair symbol pursuant to sections
27 60-3,122.03, 60-3,122.04, 60-3,124, and 60-3,125 and all persons who
28 obtain a handicapped or disabled parking permit.

29 Sec. 2. Section 60-3,122.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
30 2022, is amended to read:

31 60-3,122.03 (1) The department shall design license plates to be

1 known as Military Honor Plates.

2 ~~(2)(a) (2)~~ The department shall create designs honoring persons who
3 have served or are serving in the United States Army, United States Army
4 Reserve, United States Navy, United States Navy Reserve, United States
5 Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps Reserve, United States Coast
6 Guard, United States Coast Guard Reserve, United States Air Force, United
7 States Space Force, United States Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard,
8 or Army National Guard.

9 (b) The department may begin issuing the license plates with the
10 design honoring persons who have served or are serving in the United
11 States Space Force on January 1, 2025.

12 (3) There shall be thirteen ~~twelve~~ such designs, one for each of
13 such armed forces reflecting its official emblem, official seal, or other
14 official image. The issuance of plates for each of such armed forces
15 shall be conditioned on the approval of the armed forces owning the
16 copyright to the official emblem, official seal, or other official image.

17 (4) The department shall create five additional designs honoring
18 persons who are serving or have served in the armed forces of the United
19 States and who have been awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq
20 Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Southwest
21 Asia Service Medal, or Vietnam Service Medal.

22 (5) The department shall create the following additional designs
23 honoring persons who are serving or have served in the armed forces of
24 the United States and may begin issuing such license plates on January 1,
25 2025:

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

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

29 ~~(6)(a) (5)~~ A person may qualify for a Military Honor Plate by
30 registering with the Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section
31 80-414. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall verify the applicant's

1 eligibility for a plate created pursuant to this section by consulting
2 the registry established by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

3 (b) To be eligible for the license plates described in subdivision
4 (5)(b) of this section:

5 (i) An application and proof of disability in the form and with the
6 information required by section 60-3,113.02 shall be submitted before
7 issuance or reissuance of such license plates; and

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

10 (7) {6} The design shall be selected on the basis of limiting the
11 manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the
12 amount charged for license plates pursuant to section 60-3,102. The
13 Department of Motor Vehicles shall make applications available for each
14 type of plate when it is designed. The department may adopt and
15 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section and section
16 60-3,122.04.

17 (8) {7} One type of Military Honor Plates shall be alphanumeric
18 plates. The department shall:

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

20 (b) Not use a county designation.

21 (9) {8} One type of Military Honor Plates shall be personalized
22 message plates. Such plates shall be issued subject to the same
23 conditions specified for personalized message license plates in section
24 60-3,118, except that a maximum of five characters may be used.

25 (10) {9} The department shall cease to issue Military Honor Plates
26 beginning with the next license plate issuance cycle after the license
27 plate issuance cycle that begins in 2023 pursuant to section 60-3,101 if
28 the total number of registered vehicles that obtained such plates is less
29 than five hundred per year within any prior consecutive two-year period.

30 Sec. 3. Section 60-3,122.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
31 is amended to read:

1 60-3,122.04 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ An eligible person may apply to the
2 department for Military Honor Plates in lieu of regular license plates on
3 an application prescribed and provided by the department for any motor
4 vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, except for a motor vehicle or trailer
5 registered under section 60-3,198. An applicant receiving a Military
6 Honor Plate for a farm truck with a gross weight of over sixteen tons
7 shall affix the appropriate tonnage decal to the plate.

8 **(b)** The department shall make forms available for such applications
9 through the county treasurers.

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

15 **(i)** Active ~~(a)~~ active duty or reserve duty armed forces personnel
16 serving in any of the armed forces listed in subsection (2) of section
17 60-3,122.03 or ~~(b)~~ a veteran of any of such armed forces who was
18 discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or
19 general (under honorable conditions);

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

29 **(iii)** A ~~(d)~~ a person who is serving or has served in the armed
30 forces of the United States and who has been awarded the Afghanistan
31 Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism

1 Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, or Vietnam Service
2 Medal; -

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

6 (v) For the license plate described in subdivision (5)(b) of section
7 60-3,122.03, a person who is serving or has served in the armed forces of
8 the United States and is permanently handicapped or disabled; or

9 (vi) Beginning January 1, 2025, a trust that owns the motor vehicle,
10 trailer, or semitrailer if a designated beneficiary of the trust
11 qualifies under subdivisions (1)(c)(i) through (v) of this section.

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

19 (2)(a) In addition to all other fees required for registration under
20 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance
21 or renewal of alphanumeric Military Honor Plates shall be accompanied by
22 a fee of five dollars. County treasurers collecting fees pursuant to this
23 subdivision shall remit them to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer
24 shall credit five dollars of the fee to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery
25 System Operation Fund.

26 (b) In addition to all other fees required for registration under
27 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance
28 or renewal of personalized message Military Honor Plates shall be
29 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. County treasurers collecting fees
30 pursuant to this subdivision shall remit them to the State Treasurer. The
31 State Treasurer shall credit twenty-five percent of the fee for initial

1 issuance and renewal of such plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles
2 Cash Fund and seventy-five percent of the fee to the Nebraska Veteran
3 Cemetery System Operation Fund.

4 (3)(a) When the department receives an application for Military
5 Honor Plates, the department may deliver the plates and registration
6 certificate to the applicant by United States mail or to the county
7 treasurer of the county in which the motor vehicle or trailer is
8 registered and the delivery of the plates and registration certificate
9 shall be made through a secure process and system. ~~If Beginning on an~~
10 ~~implementation date designated by the director on or before January 1,~~
11 ~~2022,~~ if delivery of the plates and registration certificate is made by
12 the department to the applicant, the department may charge a postage and
13 handling fee in an amount not more than necessary to recover the cost of
14 postage and handling for the specific items mailed to the registrant. The
15 department shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the
16 Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund. The county treasurer or the
17 department shall issue Military Honor Plates in lieu of regular license
18 plates when the applicant complies with the other provisions of the Motor
19 Vehicle Registration Act for registration of the motor vehicle or
20 trailer. If Military Honor Plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the
21 licensee shall be issued replacement license plates upon request pursuant
22 to section 60-3,157.

23 (b) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary
24 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to
25 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No
26 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance
27 of a temporary license sticker under this subdivision. The department
28 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county
29 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and
30 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of
31 temporary license stickers.

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

13 (5) If the cost of manufacturing Military Honor Plates at any time
14 exceeds the amount charged for license plates pursuant to section
15 60-3,102, any money to be credited to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery
16 System Operation Fund shall instead be credited first to the Highway
17 Trust Fund in an amount equal to the difference between the manufacturing
18 costs of Military Honor Plates and the amount charged pursuant to section
19 60-3,102 with respect to such plates and the remainder shall be credited
20 to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund.

21 (6) If the director discovers evidence of fraud in an application
22 for Military Honor Plates or that the holder is no longer eligible to
23 have Military Honor Plates, the director may summarily cancel the plates
24 and registration and send notice of the cancellation to the holder of the
25 license plates.

26 Sec. 4. Section 60-3,123, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
27 2022, is amended to read:

28 60-3,123 (1) Any person who was captured and incarcerated by an
29 enemy of the United States during a period of conflict with such enemy
30 and who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of
31 honorable from or is currently serving in the United States Armed Forces

1 may, in addition to the application required in section 60-385, apply to
2 the department for license plates designed to indicate that he or she is
3 a former prisoner of war.

4 (2) In order to be eligible for license plates under this section, a
5 person shall register with the Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant
6 to section 80-414. The license plates shall be issued upon ~~the applicant~~
7 ~~paying the license plate fee as provided in subsection (3) of this~~
8 ~~section and~~ verification by the Department of Motor Vehicles of an
9 applicant's eligibility using the registry established by the Department
10 of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section 80-414. Any number of motor
11 vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers owned by the applicant may be so
12 licensed at any one time. Motor vehicles and trailers registered under
13 section 60-3,198 shall not be so licensed.

14 (3) No license plate fee shall be required for license plates under
15 this section.

16 (4) If the license plates issued under this section are lost,
17 stolen, or mutilated, the recipient of the license plates shall be issued
18 replacement license plates upon request and without charge.

19 (5) License plates issued under this section shall not require the
20 payment of any additional license plate fees and shall be permanently
21 attached to the vehicle to which the plates are registered as long as the
22 vehicle is properly registered by the applicant annually.

23 (6) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary
24 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to
25 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No
26 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance
27 of a temporary license sticker under this subsection. The department
28 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county
29 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and
30 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of
31 temporary license stickers.

1 Sec. 5. Section 60-3,124, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 60-3,124 (1)(a)(i) Before January 1, 2025, any ~~(1)~~ Any person who
4 is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, who was discharged or
5 otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general
6 (under honorable conditions), and who is classified by the United States
7 Department of Veterans Affairs as at least ten ~~one hundred~~ percent
8 service-connected disabled may, in addition to the application required
9 in section 60-385, apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for license
10 plates designed by the department to indicate that the applicant is a
11 disabled veteran. The inscription on the license plates shall be D.A.V.
12 immediately below the license plate number to indicate that the holder of
13 the license plates is a disabled veteran.

14 (ii) Beginning on January 1, 2025, when renewing the registration
15 for a license plate described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section,
16 the department shall issue the license plates described in subdivision
17 (1)(b)(i) of this section along with any required validation decals and
18 the license plates described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section
19 shall not be valid for use on any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer
20 beginning on February 1, 2026.

21 (b)(i) Beginning on January 1, 2025, any person who is a veteran of
22 the United States Armed Forces, who was discharged or otherwise separated
23 with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable
24 conditions), and who is classified by the United States Department of
25 Veterans Affairs as at least ten percent service-connected disabled may,
26 in addition to the application required in section 60-385, apply to the
27 Department of Motor Vehicles for license plates designed by the
28 department with the words "disabled veteran" immediately below the
29 license plate number.

30 (ii) Beginning January 1, 2025, any person who is a veteran of the
31 United States Armed Forces, who was discharged or otherwise separated

1 with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable
2 conditions), and who is classified by the United States Department of
3 Veterans Affairs as at least ten percent service-connected disabled may,
4 in addition to the application required in section 60-385, apply to the
5 Department of Motor Vehicles for license plates designed by the
6 department with the words "disabled veteran" immediately below the
7 license plate number and also carrying the internationally accepted
8 wheelchair symbol specified in section 60-3,113.

9 (iii) Beginning January 1, 2025, a trust that owns a motor vehicle,
10 trailer, or semitrailer may apply for the license plates described in
11 subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section if a designated beneficiary
12 of the trust qualifies for such license plates.

13 (2)(a) To ~~(2)~~ In order to be eligible for license plates under this
14 section, a person shall register with the Department of Veterans' Affairs
15 pursuant to section 80-414. The plates shall be issued upon the applicant
16 paying the license plate fee as provided in subsection (3) of this
17 section and verification by the Department of Motor Vehicles shall verify
18 of an applicant's eligibility using the registry established by the
19 Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section 80-414 prior to
20 issuing any license plates under this section.

21 (b) To be eligible for the license plates described in subdivision
22 (1)(b)(ii) of this section:

23 (i) An application and proof of disability in the form and with the
24 information required by section 60-3,113.02 shall be submitted before
25 issuance or reissuance of such license plates; and

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

28 (c) Any number of motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers owned by
29 the applicant may be so licensed at any one time. Motor vehicles and
30 trailers registered under section 60-3,198 shall not be so licensed.

31 (3) No license plate fee shall be required for license plates under

1 this section.

2 (4) If the license plates issued under this section are lost,
3 stolen, or mutilated, the recipient of the plates shall be issued
4 replacement license plates as provided in section 60-3,157.

5 (5) License plates issued under this section shall not require the
6 payment of any additional license plate fees and shall be permanently
7 attached to the vehicle to which the plates are registered as long as the
8 vehicle is properly registered by the applicant annually.

9 (6) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary
10 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to
11 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No
12 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance
13 of a temporary license sticker under this subsection. The department
14 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county
15 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and
16 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of
17 temporary license stickers.

18 Sec. 6. Section 60-3,125, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2022, is amended to read:

20 60-3,125 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ Any person may, in addition to the application
21 required by section 60-385, apply to the department for license plates
22 designed by the department to indicate that the applicant has received
23 from the federal government an award of a Purple Heart. The inscription
24 of the plates shall be designed so as to include a facsimile of the award
25 and beneath any numerical designation upon the plates pursuant to section
26 60-370 the words Purple Heart separately on one line and the words Combat
27 Wounded on the line below.

28 (b) Beginning January 1, 2025, any person may, in addition to the
29 application required by section 60-385, apply to the department for
30 license plates designed by the department to indicate that the applicant
31 has received from the federal government an award of a Purple Heart. The

1 inscription of the plates shall be designed so as to include a facsimile
2 of the award and beneath any numerical designation upon the plates
3 pursuant to section 60-370 the words Purple Heart separately on one line
4 and the words Combat Wounded on the line below. Such license plates shall
5 also carry the internationally accepted wheelchair symbol specified in
6 section 60-3,113.

7 (c) Beginning January 1, 2025, a trust that owns a motor vehicle,
8 trailer, or semitrailer may apply for the license plates described in
9 subdivision (1)(a) or (b) of this section if a designated beneficiary of
10 the trust qualifies for such license plates.

11 (2)(a) To ~~(2)~~ In order to be eligible for license plates under this
12 section, a person shall register with the Department of Veterans' Affairs
13 pursuant to section 80-414. The license plates shall be issued upon
14 payment of the license plate fee as provided in subsection (3) of this
15 section and verification by the Department of Motor Vehicles shall verify
16 of an applicant's eligibility using the registry established by the
17 Department of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section 80-414 prior to
18 issuing any license plates under this section.

19 (b) To be eligible for the license plates described in subdivision
20 (1)(b) of this section:

21 (i) An application and proof of disability in the form and with the
22 information required by section 60-3,113.02 shall be submitted before
23 issuance or reissuance of such license plates; and

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

26 (c) Any number of motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers owned by
27 the applicant may be so licensed at any one time. Motor vehicles and
28 trailers registered under section 60-3,198 shall not be so licensed.

29 (3) No license plate fee shall be required for license plates under
30 this section.

31 (4) If license plates issued pursuant to this section are lost,

1 stolen, or mutilated, the recipient of the plates shall be issued
2 replacement license plates upon request and without charge.

3 (5) License plates issued under this section shall not require the
4 payment of any additional license plate fees and shall be permanently
5 attached to the vehicle to which the plates are registered as long as the
6 vehicle is properly registered by the applicant annually.

7 (6) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary
8 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to
9 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No
10 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance
11 of a temporary license sticker under this subsection. The department
12 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county
13 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and
14 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of
15 temporary license stickers.

16 Sec. 7. Original sections 60-3,113 and 60-3,122.04, Reissue Revised
17 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-3,122.03, 60-3,123, 60-3,124, and
18 60-3,125, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.