

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 45**

Introduced by Watermeier, 1.

Read first time January 05, 2017

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; to amend section 80-414,  
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-3,122.03 and  
3 60-3,122.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to change  
4 provisions relating to Military Honor Plates; to harmonize  
5 provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original  
6 sections.

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

1 Section 1. Section 60-3,122.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2016, is amended to read:

3 60-3,122.03 (1) The department shall design license plates to be  
4 known as Military Honor Plates. The department shall create designs  
5 honoring persons who have served or are serving in the United States  
6 Army, United States Army Reserve, United States Navy, United States Navy  
7 Reserve, United States Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps Reserve,  
8 United States Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard Reserve, United  
9 States Air Force, United States Air Force Reserve, or National Guard.  
10 There shall be ~~e~~eleven ~~six~~ designs, one for each of such armed forces  
11 reflecting its official emblem, official seal, or other official image.  
12 The issuance of plates for each of such armed forces shall be conditioned  
13 on the approval of the armed forces owning the copyright to the official  
14 emblem, official seal, or other official image. A person may qualify for  
15 a Military Honor Plate by registering with the Department of Veterans'  
16 Affairs pursuant to section 80-414. The Department of Motor Vehicles  
17 shall verify the applicant's eligibility for a plate created pursuant to  
18 this section by consulting the registry established by the Department of  
19 Veterans' Affairs.

20 (2) The design shall be selected on the basis of limiting the  
21 manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the  
22 amount charged for license plates pursuant to section 60-3,102. The  
23 Department of Motor Vehicles shall make applications available for each  
24 type of plate when it is designed. The department may adopt and  
25 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section and section  
26 60-3,122.04.

27 (3) One type of Military Honor Plates shall be alphanumeric plates.  
28 The department shall:

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

30 (b) Not use a county designation.

31 (4) One type of Military Honor Plates shall be personalized message

1 plates. Such plates shall be issued subject to the same conditions  
2 specified for personalized message license plates in section 60-3,118,  
3 except that a maximum of five characters may be used.

4 Sec. 2. Section 60-3,122.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
5 2016, is amended to read:

6 60-3,122.04 (1) ~~An Beginning January 2, 2016,~~ an eligible person may  
7 apply to the department for Military Honor Plates in lieu of regular  
8 license plates on an application prescribed and provided by the  
9 department for any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or cabin trailer,  
10 except for a motor vehicle or trailer registered under section 60-3,198.  
11 An applicant receiving a Military Honor Plate for a farm truck with a  
12 gross weight of over sixteen tons shall affix the appropriate tonnage  
13 decal to the plate. The department shall make forms available for such  
14 applications through the county treasurers. The license plates shall be  
15 issued upon payment of the license fee described in subsection (2) of  
16 this section and verification by the department of an applicant's  
17 eligibility using the registry established by the Department of Veterans'  
18 Affairs pursuant to section 80-414. To be eligible an applicant shall be  
19 (a) active duty or reserve duty armed forces personnel serving in any of  
20 the armed forces listed in subsection (1) of section 60-3,122.03, ~~or~~ (b)  
21 a veteran of any of such armed forces who was discharged or otherwise  
22 separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under  
23 honorable conditions), or (c) a trust that owns the motor vehicle,  
24 trailer, semitrailer, or cabin trailer if a designated beneficiary of the  
25 trust qualifies under subdivision (1)(a) or (b) of this section. Any  
26 person using Military Honor Plates shall surrender the plates to the  
27 county treasurer if such person is no longer eligible for the plates.  
28 Regular plates shall be issued to any such person upon surrender of the  
29 Military Honor Plates for a three-dollar transfer fee and forfeiture of  
30 any of the remaining annual fee. The three-dollar transfer fee shall be  
31 remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Department of Motor

1 Vehicles Cash Fund.

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

9 (b) In addition to all other fees required for registration under  
10 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance  
11 or renewal of personalized message Military Honor Plates shall be  
12 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. County treasurers collecting fees  
13 pursuant to this subdivision shall remit them to the State Treasurer. The  
14 State Treasurer shall credit twenty-five percent of the fee for initial  
15 issuance and renewal of such plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles  
16 Cash Fund and seventy-five percent of the fee to the Nebraska Veteran  
17 Cemetery System Operation Fund.

18 (3) When the Department of Motor Vehicles receives an application  
19 for Military Honor Plates, the department shall deliver the plates to the  
20 county treasurer of the county in which the motor vehicle or cabin  
21 trailer is registered. The county treasurer shall issue Military Honor  
22 Plates in lieu of regular license plates when the applicant complies with  
23 the other provisions of the Motor Vehicle Registration Act for  
24 registration of the motor vehicle or cabin trailer. If Military Honor  
25 Plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the licensee shall be issued  
26 replacement license plates upon request pursuant to section 60-3,157.

27 (4) The owner of a motor vehicle or cabin trailer bearing Military  
28 Honor Plates may apply to the county treasurer to have such plates  
29 transferred to a motor vehicle other than the vehicle for which such  
30 plates were originally purchased if such vehicle is owned by the owner of  
31 the plates. The owner may have the unused portion of the fee for the

1 plates credited to the other vehicle which will bear the plates at the  
2 rate of eight and one-third percent per month for each full month left in  
3 the registration period. Application for such transfer shall be  
4 accompanied by a fee of three dollars. Fees collected pursuant to this  
5 subsection shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the  
6 Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund.

7 (5) If the cost of manufacturing Military Honor Plates at any time  
8 exceeds the amount charged for license plates pursuant to section  
9 60-3,102, any money to be credited to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery  
10 System Operation Fund shall instead be credited first to the Highway  
11 Trust Fund in an amount equal to the difference between the manufacturing  
12 costs of Military Honor Plates and the amount charged pursuant to section  
13 60-3,102 with respect to such plates and the remainder shall be credited  
14 to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund.

15 (6) If the director discovers evidence of fraud in an application  
16 for Military Honor Plates or that the holder is no longer eligible to  
17 have Military Honor Plates, the director may summarily cancel the plates  
18 and registration and send notice of the cancellation to the holder of the  
19 license plates.

20 Sec. 3. Section 80-414, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
21 amended to read:

22 80-414 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall create and  
23 maintain a registry of residents of Nebraska who meet the requirements of  
24 subsection (1) ~~subdivision (1)(a) or (b)~~ of section 60-3,122.04 or  
25 subsection (1) of section 60-4,189. The Department of Veterans' Affairs  
26 may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the  
27 establishment and maintenance of the registry. The registry may be used  
28 to assist the department in carrying out the duties of the department and  
29 shall provide for the collection of sufficient information to identify an  
30 individual who qualifies for Military Honor Plates or a notation of  
31 "veteran" on his or her operator's license or state identification card

1 issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The registry may include  
2 information such as identifying information on an individual, an  
3 individual's records on active duty or reserve duty in the armed forces  
4 of the United States, or an individual's status of active duty, reserve  
5 duty, retired, discharged, or other.

6 (2) Any resident of Nebraska who meets the requirements of  
7 subsection (1) subdivision ~~(1)(a) or (b)~~ of section 60-3,122.04 or  
8 subsection (1) of section 60-4,189 shall register with the Department of  
9 Veterans' Affairs using the registry created by this section before being  
10 eligible for Military Honor Plates or a notation of "veteran" on his or  
11 her operator's license or state identification card issued by the  
12 Department of Motor Vehicles. No person shall be deemed eligible until  
13 his or her status has been verified on the registry.

14 (3) The Department of Motor Vehicles may adopt and promulgate rules  
15 and regulations governing use of the registry of the Department of  
16 Veterans' Affairs for determination of eligibility for the issuance of  
17 Military Honor Plates or the notation of "veteran" on operators' licenses  
18 and state identification cards.

19 Sec. 4. This act becomes operative on January 1, 2018.

20 Sec. 5. Original section 80-414, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
21 Nebraska, and sections 60-3,122.03 and 60-3,122.04, Revised Statutes  
22 Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.