SHORT TITLE: Motor vehicles; special license plates for Red Cross volunteers; effective date.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 252 By: Brown

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1136, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 194, O.S.L. 1994 (47 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1136), which relates to special license plates; providing for special license plates for Red Cross volunteers and staff; specifying design requirements and fees therefor; providing for deposit of fees; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 1136, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 194, O.S.L. 1994 (47 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1136), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1136. The Oklahoma Tax Commission is hereby authorized to design and issue appropriate official special license plates as provided by this section.

Special license plates shall not be transferred to any other person but shall be removed from the vehicle upon transfer of ownership and retained. The special license plate may then be used on another vehicle but only after such other vehicle has been registered for the current year with a motor license agent.

The Commission shall take applications by October 1 of each year for the following calendar year for special license plates and shall issue such plates to each applicant.

Special license plates shall be renewed each year by the Commission or a motor license agent. The Commission shall annually notify by mail all persons issued special license plates. Such notice shall contain all necessary information and shall contain instructions for the renewal procedure upon presentation to a motor license agent or the Commission.

Special license plates shall be designed in such a manner as to identify the use and ownership of the vehicle. The special license plates provided by this section are as follows:

1. Political Subdivision Plates - such plates shall be designed for any vehicle owned by any political subdivision of this state and shall be registered for Five Dollars ($5.00), after having obtained proper Oklahoma certificate of title. Such political subdivisions shall file an annual report with the Commission stating the agency where such vehicle is located. Such license plates shall be permanent in nature and designed in such a manner as to remain with the vehicle for the duration of the life span of the vehicle or until the title is transferred to an owner who is not a political subdivision;

2. Legislative License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons elected to the Oklahoma Legislature and shall designate the house of the Legislature in which the legislator serves and his district number.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to the regular plate issued to the member and the fees charged therefor;

3. Tax-Exempt or Nonprofit License Plates - such plates shall be designed for:

a. any motor bus, manufactured home, or mobile chapel and power unit owned and operated by a religious corporation or society of this state holding a valid exemption from taxation issued pursuant to Section

501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(a), and listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3), and that is used by the corporation or society solely for the furtherance of its religious functions,

b. any vehicle owned and operated only by nonprofit organizations devoted exclusively to youth programs including, but not limited to, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America,

c. any vehicle, except passenger automobiles, owned or operated by nonprofit organizations actually involved in programs for the employment of the handicapped and used exclusively in the transportation of goods or materials for such organization,

d. any vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit organization that provides older persons transportation to and from medical, dental and religious services and relief from business and social isolation,

e. any vehicle owned and operated by a private nonprofit organization that:

(1) warehouses and distributes surplus foods to other nonprofit agencies and organizations, and

(2) holds a valid exemption from taxation issued pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c), and listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and

(3) uses such vehicle exclusively for the transportation of such surplus foods, or

f. any vehicle owned and operated by a fire department organized pursuant to Section 592 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00).

Any person claiming to be eligible for a tax-exempt or nonprofit license plate under the provisions of this paragraph must have the name of the tax-exempt or nonprofit organization prominently displayed upon the outside of the vehicle, except those vehicles registered pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, unless such display is prohibited by federal or state law or by state agency rules and regulations. No vehicle shall be licensed as a tax-exempt or nonprofit vehicle unless the vehicle has affixed on each side thereof, in letters not less than two (2) inches high and two (2) inches wide, the name of the tax-exempt or nonprofit organization or the insignia or other symbol of such organization which shall be of sufficient size, shape and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of fifty (50) feet while the vehicle is not in motion;

4. Prisoner of War License Plates - such plates shall be designed for honorably discharged or present members of the United States Armed Forces and civilians who were former prisoners of war held by a foreign country and who can provide proper certification of that status. Such persons may apply for a prisoner of war license plate for no more than two vehicles with each vehicle having a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less. The surviving spouse of any deceased former prisoner of war, if said spouse has not since remarried, may apply for a prisoner of war license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00);

5. National Guard License Plates - such plates shall be designed for active or retired members of the Oklahoma National Guard.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by this act, Section 1101 et seq. of this title;

6. Air National Guard License Plates - such plates shall be designed for active or retired members of the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by this act;

7. United States Armed Forces - such plates shall be designed for active, retired, former or reserve members of the United States Armed Forces, and shall identify which branch of service, and carry the emblem and name of either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, according to the branch of service to which the member belongs or did belong. Former members who have been dishonorably discharged shall not be eligible for such plates. Persons applying for such license plate must show proof of present or past military service by presenting a valid Uniformed Services Identity Card or the United States Department of Defense Form (DD)214.

The fee for such plates shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by this act;

8. Physically Disabled License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons who are eligible for an insignia as a physically disabled person under the provisions of Section 15-112 of this title. It shall prominently display the international accessibility symbol, which is a stylized human figure in a wheelchair. Upon the death of such physically disabled person, said special license plate shall be returned to the Commission.

There shall be no fee for such plate in addition to the rate provided by this act for the registration of the vehicle.

Any person who is eligible for a physically disabled license plate and whose vehicle has had modifications because of the physical disability of the owner, may register the vehicle for a flat fee of Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00). This fee shall be in lieu of all other registration fees provided by this act;

9. Disabled Veterans License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons presenting proper certification from the United States Veteran's Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States certifying such veteran has a service-connected disability rating of fifty percent (50%) or more or that such veteran has been awarded a vehicle by the United States government or receives a grant from the United States Veteran's Administration for the purchase of an automobile due to a service-connected disability rating or due to the loss of use of a limb or an eye. Such persons may apply to the Commission for a disabled veterans license plate or to a motor license agent for a regular license plate for no more than two vehicles with each vehicle having a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less. The surviving spouse of any deceased disabled veteran, if said spouse has not since remarried, may apply for a disabled veterans license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00);

10. Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient License Plates -such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Such persons may apply for a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00);

11. Missing In Action License Plates - such plates shall be designed to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who are missing in action. The spouse of such missing person, if said spouse has not since remarried, and each parent of such missing

person may apply for a missing in action license plate upon presenting proper certification that such person is missing in action and that the person making said application is the unremarried spouse or the parent of such missing person. The spouse and each parent of such missing person may each apply for the missing in action license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to the regular plate issued and the fees charged therefor;

12. Indian Tribal License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any vehicle of a native American Indian Tribal Association exempted in Sections 201 through 204 of Public Law 97-473 and used by the tribal association exclusively for the furtherance of its tribal functions.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00);

13. Personalized License Plates - such plates shall be designed and issued for the following:

a. any person in any combination of numbers or letters from one to a maximum of seven,

b. persons eligible for two or more of the military decoration special license plates provided for in this section. Such plates may be issued in any combination of emblems. However, such plates shall only display up to three emblems and shall also display any combination of letters or numbers from one to a maximum of three, and

c. motorcycles in any combination of numbers or letters from one to a maximum of six.

The personalized license plates shall be issued on a staggered system except for motorcycles.

On and after January 1, 1987, persons owning vehicles which are twenty-one (21) years and older are qualified to submit for approval by the Oklahoma Tax Commission or a motor license agent a vintage but expired official Oklahoma license plate which is twenty-one (21) years and older. Upon approval of such personalized plate, the owner shall be issued the annual registration decal which the Commission or agent shall direct to be affixed in close proximity to the mandatory vehicle inspection decal. The Tax Commission shall promulgate a rule which establishes appropriate criteria to be used in the implementation of this act.

The fee for such plate shall be Twelve Dollars ($12.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by this act. Two Dollars ($2.00) of the personalized tag fee shall be deposited in the Oklahoma Tax Commission Reimbursement Fund to be used for the administration of this act;

14. Antique or Classic Vehicle Plates - such plates shall be designed and issued for any vehicle twenty-five (25) years of age or older, based upon the date of manufacture thereof and which travels on the highways of this state primarily incidental to historical or exhibition purposes only.

The registration fee shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and, except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, shall be in addition to all other registration fees provided by this act. Vehicles issued an antique vehicle license plate pursuant to the provisions of this subparagraph shall be exempt from the registration fee levied by paragraph 1 of subsection A of Section 1132 of this title;

15. Purple Heart Recipient License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who has been awarded the Purple Heart military decoration. Such persons may apply for a Purple Heart recipient license plate for two vehicles with each vehicle having a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, Section 1101 et seq. of this title;

16. Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who can be verified by the United States Veteran's Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States as being:

a. a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941,

b. stationed on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three (3) miles, and

c. a recipient of an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces.

Such person may apply for a Pearl Harbor Survivor license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall design and make available to any person who is issued a Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate a commemorative Pearl Harbor decal to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Such decal shall include the language "Pearl Harbor 1941-1991" and shall be designed to be easily attached to a license plate. This decal shall be free of charge to those persons issued a Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate;

17. Iwo Jima License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who can be verified by the United States Veteran's Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States as being:

a. a member of the United States Armed Forces in February of 1945,

b. stationed in February of 1945 on or in the immediate vicinity of the island of Iwo Jima, and

c. a recipient of an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces.

Such person may apply for an Iwo Jima license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

Such license plate shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK" and shall contain three letters and three numbers. Between the letters and numbers shall be a logo of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima. Below the letters, logo and numbers, the plate shall contain the words "FEB." at the left, "Iwo Jima" in the center and "1945" at the right. Such plates shall not be subject to the design requirements of any other license plates prescribed by law other than the space for the placement of the yearly decals for each succeeding year of registration after the initial issue.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

18. D-Day Survivor License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who can be verified by the United States Veteran's Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States as being:

a. a member of the United States Armed Forces on June 6, 1944,

b. a participant in the Allied invasion of the coast of Normandy on June 6, 1944; provided, if such participation cannot be verified by the United States Veteran's Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States, the Tax Commission may, in its

discretion, accept evidence of such participation from the person applying for the license plate, and

c. a recipient of an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces.

Such person may apply for a D-Day Survivor license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

19. Killed in Action License Plates - such plates shall be designed to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who were killed in action. The spouse of such deceased person, if said spouse has not remarried, may apply for a killed in action license plate upon presenting proper certification that such person was killed in action and that said person making the application is the unremarried spouse of such deceased person. The spouse may apply for a killed in action license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less. The registration fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00);

20. University or College Supporter License Plates - such plates shall be designed and issued to any person wishing to demonstrate support to any state-supported university or college. The fee for such plate shall be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, Section 1101 et seq. of this title. The twenty-five-dollar fee shall be apportioned pursuant to Section 1104.1 of this title;

21. Environmental Awareness License Plates - such plates shall be designed, subject to the criteria to be presented to the Oklahoma Tax Commission by the Department of Environmental Quality in consultation with the State Arts Council, and issued to any person wishing to demonstrate support to implement the statewide general

public environmental education program created pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Code. Such plates shall be designed and issued to any person in any combination of numbers and letters from one to a maximum of seven, as for personalized license plates. The fee for such plate shall be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act. The twenty-five-dollar fee shall be apportioned pursuant to Section 1104.2 of this title. A dealer's license plate issued pursuant to Section 1116.1 or 1128 of this title may be designated an Environmental Awareness License Plate upon payment of the fee imposed by this paragraph and any other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

22. Military Decoration License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any resident of this state who has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star military decoration or the Silver Star military decoration. Such persons may apply for a military decoration license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

23. Vietnam Veteran License Plates - such plates shall be designed for honorably discharged or present members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Vietnam Conflict. Such persons may apply for a Vietnam veteran license plate for one vehicle with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

24. Round and Square Dance License Plates - such plates shall be designed and issued to any person wishing to demonstrate support for round and square dancing.

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

25. Firefighter License Plates - such plates shall be designed for any career or retired firefighter, volunteer or paid. Firefighters may apply for firefighter plates for up to four vehicles with a rated capacity of one (1) ton or less upon proof of a fire department membership by either an identification card or letter from the Chief of the fire department. The license plate shall have the legend "Oklahoma" in the color Pantone 186C Red and shall contain no more than three letters and three numbers in the color Pantone 301C Blue. Between the letters and numbers shall be the Firefighter Maltese Cross Logo in the color Pantone 186C Red outlined in the color Pantone 301C Blue. Below the letters and the logo shall be the word "Firefighter" in the color Pantone 186C Red. The plates shall not be subject to the design requirements of any other license plates prescribed by law other than the space for the placement of the yearly decals for each succeeding year of registration after the initial issue.

The fee for such plate shall be Twenty Dollars ($20.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act. The Twenty Dollars ($20.00) for initial registration and succeeding yearly registration shall be apportioned as follows: Fifteen Dollars ($15.00) shall be deposited to the Oklahoma State Firemen's Museum Building & Memorial Fund for support of the Oklahoma Firefighter Fallen and Living Memorial and Five Dollars ($5.00) to the Oklahoma Tax Commission;

26. World War II Veteran License Plates - such plates shall be designed to honor honorably discharged former members of the United

States Armed Forces who are residents of this state and who can be verified by the Oklahoma Military Department, the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States as having served on federal active duty anytime during the period from September 16, 1940, to December 7, 1945.

Such former members may apply for a World War II Veteran license plate for two vehicles with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

Such license plate shall have the legend "Oklahoma" and shall contain, in the center of the plate, either the Thunderbird Insignia of the 45th Infantry Division in the prescribed red and gold coloring or the emblem of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard according to the branch of service to which the member belonged. For the purpose of license plate identification, the plate shall contain four digits, two digits at the left and two digits at the right of the insignia or emblem. Centered on the bottom of the license plate shall be the words "WORLD WAR II".

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

27. Korean War Veteran License Plates - such plates shall be designed to honor honorably discharged former members of the United States Armed Forces who are residents of this state and who can be verified by the Oklahoma Military Department, the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States as having served on federal active duty anytime during the period from September 1, 1950, to April 27, 1954.

Such former members may apply for a Korean War Veteran license plate for two vehicles with a rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less.

Such license plate shall have the legend "OKLAHOMA" and shall contain, in the center of the plate, either the Thunderbird Insignia

of the 45th Infantry Division in the prescribed red and gold coloring or the emblem of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard according to the branch of service to which the member belonged. For the purpose of license plate identification, the plate shall contain four digits, two digits at the left and two digits at the right of the insignia or emblem. Centered on the bottom of the license plate shall be the word "KOREA".

The fee for such plate shall be Five Dollars ($5.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act;

28. Wildlife Conservation License Plates - such plates shall be designed, subject to the criteria to be presented to the Oklahoma Tax Commission by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in consultation with the State Arts Council, and issued to any person wishing to demonstrate support for wildlife conservation in this state through the Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund, provided for in Section 3-310 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Such plates may be designed and issued to any person as for personalized license plates. The fee for the plate shall be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, Section 1101 et seq. of this title. Twenty Dollars ($20.00) of the twenty-five-dollar fee shall be apportioned pursuant to paragraph D of Section 3-310 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes; ~~and~~

29. Municipal Official License Plates - such plates shall be designed for persons elected to a municipal office in this state and shall designate the name of the municipality and the district or ward in which the municipal official serves. The plates shall only be produced upon application.

The fee for the plate shall be Fifteen Dollars ($15.00) and shall be in addition to the regular plate issued to the elected municipal official and the fees charged therefor; and

30. Red Cross Volunteer License Plates - such plates shall be designed to honor American Red Cross volunteers and staff who are residents of this state. Such persons must present an identification card issued by the American Red Cross and bearing a photograph of the person. The license plate shall be designed with the assistance of the American Red Cross and shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK!" in the color Pantone 186C Red. Below the legend the symbol of the American Red Cross and no more than three letters and three numbers shall be in the color Pantone 186C Red. Below the symbol and letters and numbers shall be the words "American Red Cross" in black. The plates shall not be subject to the design requirements of any other license plates prescribed by law other than the space for the placement of the yearly decals for each succeeding year of registration after the initial issue.

The fee for such plate shall be Twenty Dollars ($20.00) and shall be in addition to all other registration fees required by the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, Fifteen Dollars ($15.00) of which shall be deposited to the state American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title, Two Dollars ($2.00) of each special tag fee shall be deposited to the OTC Reimbursement Fund to be used for the administration of this act.

Use of any vehicle possessing a special license plate for any purpose not specified in this section shall be grounds for revocation of the special license plate and registration certificate.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1995.

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