

**HB256 ENGROSSED**



1 HB256

2 W1NV49E-2

3 By Representatives Bedsole, Treadaway, Rehm

4 RFD: State Government

5 First Read: 15-Jan-26



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A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

## AN ACT

9 Relating to motor vehicle licenses and registration; to  
10 amend Sections 32-6-62 and 32-6-64, Code of Alabama 1975, to  
11 extend the minimum validity period of motor vehicle license  
12 plate designs from five years to 10 years.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 "§32-6-62

23 (b) Subsection (a) shall not affect any law which  
24 designates a license plate design to be permanent."

25 "§32-6-64

26 (a) (1) The design of license plates, including all  
27 emblems, slogans, symbols, or characters appearing on the  
28 plates, shall be, by rule, as adopted by the Commissioner of



29 Revenue, and as otherwise specified by law. The face of the  
30 license plate to be displayed shall be fully treated with a  
31 reflective material which will increase the nighttime  
32 visibility and legibility of the plate.

33 (2) Characters on the license plate which designate the  
34 county of issuance shall be numeric, and all numerals on the  
35 license plates shall be no smaller than two and three-fourths  
36 inches in height. The following numbering scheme shall be  
37 used:

38 a. Jefferson County, 1; Mobile County, 2; Montgomery  
39 County, 3.

40 b. All other counties shall be ranked alphabetically  
41 and assigned consecutive numbers beginning with 4 and  
42 concluding with 67.

43 c. The Department of Revenue shall be responsible for  
44 the numbering of distinctive license plates and shall  
45 establish a system to minimize duplication of license plate  
46 numbers. License plates that shall be approved for manufacture  
47 under subsection (b) shall be numbered or personalized.

48 (b) The sponsoring organization of any new or reissued  
49 distinctive license plate that is not of an in-state college  
50 or in-state university as provided in subsection (b) of  
51 Section 32-6-150, or the Alabama Gold Star Family license  
52 plate as provided in Section 32-6-630 or a military or veteran  
53 related category shall assure a minimum quantity of 250  
54 registrations in order for the proposed plate to qualify for  
55 production consideration by the legislative oversight  
56 committee under the provisions of Section 32-6-67.



57 (1) The procedure to assure the quantity minimum for a  
58 distinctive license plate shall be as follows:

59                   a. The sponsoring organization shall apply to the  
60                   Department of Revenue for approval for the proposed  
61                   distinctive license plate from the legislative oversight  
62                   committee. A sponsoring organization shall be limited to one  
63                   distinctive license plate design per application. At the time  
64                   of application, and upon payment of the application fee  
65                   required in paragraph b., if applicable, the sponsoring  
66                   organization shall submit a design for the plate or logo for  
67                   the quantity class being applied for as described below:

68                   1. Quantity Class 1 (250 to 999 registrations). A new  
69                   distinctive license plate category, or an existing distinctive  
70                   license plate to be reissued, in which registrations are  
71                   estimated to be at least 250, but less than 1,000, shall be in  
72                   conformity with the design approved by the legislative  
73                   oversight committee for license plates in this quantity class.  
74                   This plate shall include a space designated on the left side  
75                   of the license plate, not exceeding two and one-half inches in  
76                   width and height, in which an appropriate emblem, slogan, or  
77                   logo design may be applied to represent the organization for  
78                   whom the distinctive license plate is issued. Each proposed  
79                   emblem, slogan, symbol, or logo shall be subject to the  
80                   approval of the legislative oversight committee.

81                   2. Quantity Class 2 (1,000 or greater registrations).  
82     This quantity class may use the logo system described for  
83     Quantity Class 1, or may use a unique design for the entire  
84     plate which is approved by the legislative oversight committee



85 and meets all other design and manufacture requirements of  
86 Alabama law.

87           b. Effective January 1, 2022, each sponsoring  
88 organization shall submit an application fee equal to the cost  
89 of producing the distinctive license plate template not to  
90 exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) at the time the initial  
91 application is made, the funds of which shall be distributed  
92 by the Comptroller to the Department of Corrections to cover  
93 the costs of producing the template of the distinctive license  
94 plate for the sponsoring organization. On or before October 1,  
95 2021, and by each October 1 thereafter, the Department of  
96 Corrections shall certify the cost of production to the  
97 legislative oversight committee for the subsequent calendar  
98 year.

99           c. After the legislative oversight committee approval  
100 and notification to the Department of Revenue, the department  
101 shall also coordinate with the Comptroller to establish  
102 funding procedures for depositing and maintaining monies held  
103 pending issuance of the new category of license plates.

104           d. Each person desiring to register a vehicle in the  
105 new category shall make application and shall remit, as a  
106 commitment to purchase, the additional fee associated with the  
107 license plate category in a manner as prescribed by rule of  
108 the Commissioner of Revenue. Any credit card processing fee  
109 associated with the transaction shall be paid by the person  
110 making the commitment to purchase the distinctive license  
111 plate and shall be nonrefundable.

112           e. The Department of Revenue shall deduct from the



113 additional fee and retain a two and one-half percent  
114 commission. The balance shall be forwarded to the Comptroller  
115 to be retained in escrow, until such time as the revenue  
116 received is equal to or greater than the minimum amount  
117 required to issue license plates in that category. If, after  
118 one year from the date of notification of approval by the  
119 legislative oversight committee, the number of subscribers for  
120 a category fails to reach 250 for Quantity Class 1, or fails  
121 to reach 1,000 for Quantity Class 2, the Comptroller shall pay  
122 the money in escrow to the sponsoring organization and no  
123 further consideration for production of this proposed  
124 distinctive plate shall be made under this application. In  
125 addition, the sponsoring organization may not submit another  
126 application for a distinctive license plate for a period of  
127 one year from the date the commitment to purchase period  
128 ended.

129 f. Upon determination by the Department of Revenue that  
130 a sufficient number of applications for a plate category has  
131 been received, the department shall initiate the ordering  
132 processes for design and manufacture of the approved license  
133 plate. At that time, the Comptroller shall pay out of the  
134 escrow account the amounts referred to in Section 32-6-68.

135 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the  
136 contrary, except where specifically provided by this  
137 subsection, no distinctive license plates shall be reissued  
138 unless the following requirements are met:

139 a. For Quantity Class 1 distinctive license plates,  
140 there shall have been issued in the prior license year a



141 minimum of 250 license plates.

142 b. For Quantity Class 2 distinctive license plates,  
143 there shall have been issued in the prior license year a  
144 minimum of 1,000 license plates.

145 (3) The use of distinctive license plate categories  
146 shall be limited to use on passenger cars, pick-up trucks, and  
147 self-propelled campers or house cars.

148 (c) (1) The Department of Corrections is directed to  
149 supply all license plates and revalidation devices required  
150 under this subdivision. The amounts charged by the Department  
151 of Corrections for the manufacture of revalidation devices  
152 shall not be less than that charged for the manufacture of  
153 license plates on a per item basis.

154 (2) The Department of Corrections shall maintain an  
155 accurate system of recordkeeping which shall trace and account  
156 for the handling and distribution of each plate and  
157 revalidation device throughout the manufacturing process until  
158 the items are distributed to each county.

159 (d) After the ~~five-year~~ license plate has been in use  
160 for a period of three years, the Department of Corrections may  
161 manufacture all subsequent license plates for the remaining  
162 ~~two years of the validity period provided under Section 32-6-62~~  
163 from a metal of less durability and quality than the metal  
164 used initially in manufacturing the ~~five-year~~ license plates.

165 (e) (1) The department shall provide the owner or owners  
166 of a motor vehicle who register a license plate provided in  
167 this subsection the ability to opt-in to authorize the release  
168 of certain personal information or to opt-out to restrict the



169 release of certain personal information by the department to  
170 the sponsoring organization, college, or university. The  
171 license plates that shall be subject to the opt-in and opt-out  
172 provisions are as follows:

173 a. A distinctive license plate issued pursuant to this  
174 section.

175 b. A collegiate or university distinctive license plate  
176 issued pursuant to Section 32-6-150.

177 c. Other distinctive license plates as authorized by  
178 the legislative oversight committee.

179 (2) Each owner of the motor vehicle may designate his  
180 or her consent through the opt-in authorization to release  
181 certain personal information included within a motor vehicle  
182 registration record to the sponsoring organization, college,  
183 or university. The opt-in authorization shall be made at the  
184 time of initial registration through the licensing official  
185 for a license plate as specified in subdivision (1).

186 Subsequent opt-in authorizations shall be made directly to the  
187 department. As used in this subsection, the term personal  
188 information includes only the following information:

189 a. Owner name.

190 b. Owner address.

191 c. Owner email address, if applicable.

192 (3) Each owner of the motor vehicle may restrict the  
193 release of personal information included within a motor  
194 vehicle registration record for a license plate as specified  
195 in subdivision (1) to the sponsoring organization, college, or  
196 university by selecting to opt-out. The opt-out selection



197 shall be made directly to the department.

198 (4) The subsequent opt-in authorization provided in  
199 subdivision (2) and opt-out selection provided in subdivision  
200 (3) shall be made in a manner as prescribed by the department.

201 (5) The sponsoring organization of the distinctive  
202 license plate or each college or university for which a  
203 distinctive license plate has been issued may make an annual  
204 request to the department for the listing of the owner  
205 authorized opt-in disclosures. The sponsoring organization in  
206 receipt of the listing shall be prohibited from the resale or  
207 disclosure of the information to third parties without written  
208 consent from the owner to whom the information pertains.

209 (f) All proposed distinctive license plates and the  
210 continued issuance of all existing distinctive license plates  
211 shall be subject to the approval and oversight of the  
212 legislative oversight committee under Section 32-6-67 and this  
213 section, except for the following:

214 (1) In-state collegiate or in-state university category  
215 license plates.

216 (2) Military or veteran related category license  
217 plates.

218 (3) Alabama Gold Star Family license plates as provided  
219 in Section 32-6-630.

220 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no  
221 distinctive license plate shall be issued after five  
222 consecutive years in which the plate has not met the  
223 requirements for reissuance provided in this section. This  
224 subsection does not apply to military or veteran related



225 categories or Alabama Gold Star Family distinctive license  
226 plates. The Commissioner of Revenue may require persons who  
227 qualify for military and veteran related categories or Alabama  
228 Gold Star Family distinctive license plates to be recertified  
229 not more than every five years by providing the licensing  
230 official with Form DD214 or any other documentation prescribed  
231 by law or rule as evidence of qualification for the license  
232 plate. In the event that Form DD214 or other qualifying  
233 documentation prescribed by law or rule is unavailable, the  
234 applicant shall provide the licensing official with a  
235 certification of eligibility from the Department of Veterans  
236 Affairs after the applicant provides that office with other  
237 authoritative documentation evidencing eligibility for the  
238 license plate.

239 (h) Any distinctive license plate not created pursuant  
240 to this section shall be subject to the reissuance provisions  
241 of this section and Section 32-6-62 unless specifically  
242 exempted by law, provided the Alabama Gold Star Family  
243 distinctive license plate design in effect on January 1, 2021,  
244 shall not be subject to the redesign provisions of Section  
245 32-6-62.

246 (i) The provisions in Act 2021-407 amending this  
247 section shall not amend the distribution of the additional fee  
248 associated with a distinctive license plate as provided in  
249 Section 32-6-68 or as otherwise provided under Article 2 of  
250 this chapter."

251 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January  
252 1, 2027.

**HB256 Engrossed**



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House of Representatives

256 Read for the first time and referred ..... 15-Jan-26  
257 to the House of Representatives  
258 committee on State Government  
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260 Read for the second time and placed ..... 21-Jan-26  
261 on the calendar:  
262 0 amendments  
263  
264 Read for the third time and passed ..... 05-Feb-26  
265 as amended  
266 Yeas 101  
267 Nays 3  
268 Abstains 0  
269  
270  
271 John Treadwell  
272 Clerk  
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