

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2392**

As Agreed to April 30, 2024

Brief*

HB 2392 would modify the definition of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” to clarify the discharge status (or characterization of service) a member of the Armed Forces must receive to be eligible for certain benefits in Kansas. The bill would also authorize issuance of a 1st Infantry Division and an Armed Service Occupation Medal distinctive license plates.

Modified Definitions

The bill would modify the definition of “veteran” to mean a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service and who, upon release from service, received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions for the following benefit:

- Vietnam War Era medallion, medal, and certificate administered by the Kansas Office of Veterans Services.

The bill would modify the definition of “disabled veteran” to mean the same as “veteran” with the additional requirement that such person incurred or aggravated a disability in the line of active duty and has a certain disability evaluation percentage, for the following benefits:

- A permanent license to hunt and fish in Kansas, provided such person has a service-connected evaluation of 30.0 percent or more;
- Preference in contracts for any job or service for which moneys appropriated are to be expended, provided such a disabled veteran business operates as a Kansas firm or corporation or maintains offices in Kansas; and
- Preference in certain bids for contracts and purchases, provided such person has a service-connected evaluation of 10.0 percent or more.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

Distinctive License Plate

The bill would authorize issuance of 1st Infantry Division and Armed Services Occupation Medal distinctive license plates for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less. The bill would require an applicant to furnish proof satisfactory to the Director of Vehicles (Director), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), of meeting the eligibility requirements for each plate.

The bill would require an applicant to meet the following conditions to be eligible:

- For the 1st Infantry Division license plate:
 - Be currently serving in any unit of the 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, the Fort Riley Garrison, or a unit assigned to the Fort Riley Garrison; or
 - Has separated from the U.S. military, was honorably discharged, and served at least nine months in any unit of the 1st Infantry Division, the Fort Riley Garrison, or a unit assigned to the Fort Riley Garrison; and
- For the Armed Services Occupation Medal license plate:
 - Be a recipient of the Army of Occupation Medal or the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

The bill would require the application to be made at least 60 days prior to a person's renewal of registration date, on a form provided by the Director.

The license plates would be exempt from requirements concerning distinctive license plate fees related to the costs for development and issuance of a license plate. Neither type of license plate would be transferable to another person.

The bill would authorize a surviving spouse or other family member to possess the license plate in the event of the death of a person eligible for the license plate. However, the license plate could not be used or displayed on any vehicle.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the following changes:

- Remove the provisions of HB 2392, as amended by the Senate Committee on Judiciary;
- Added the contents of HB 2482, as amended by the House Committee on Transportation; and
- Add provisions related to HB 2760, as approved by the Governor, in order to modify the definitions of "veterans" and "disabled veterans."

Background

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the provisions of HB 2392 relating to the Kansas Code of Military Justice. [*Note:* These provisions can be found in SB 292, which was signed into law by the Governor on April 23, 2024.]

The Conference Committee inserted provisions relating to HB 2670 modifying the definition of veterans and disabled veterans. [*Note:* The bill would make further amendments to the provisions of HB 2760, which was signed into law on April 24, 2024.]

The Conference Committee inserted the contents of HB 2482 relating to license plates. [*Note:* The provisions of HB 2558 were included in HB 2482, as amended by the House Committee on Transportation.]

HB 2482–1st Infantry Division, Armed Services Occupation Medal license plate)

The bill was prefiled for introduction by Representative Dodson on December 13, 2023.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Butler, Representative Johnson, and a former member of the 1st Infantry Division. The proponents generally stated the bill would allow Kansans who are current and former members of the 1st Infantry Division to show their pride for their service and their support of the armed services. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to insert the contents of HB 2558, while retaining the contents of HB 2482.

HB 2558–Armed Services Occupation Medal Plate

HB 2558 was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Garber on behalf of a retired Army sergeant.

House Committee on Transportation

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Garber and a retired Army sergeant. The proponents generally stated the bill would allow Kansans who are recipients of the Armed Services Occupation Medal to show pride for their service and their accomplishments in the armed services. No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

An updated fiscal note for the provisions of the bill regarding the modification of definitions was not immediately available. Fiscal information for the bill regarding the license plates follows.

HB 2482–1st Infantry Division Plate

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2482, as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$4,780 in FY 2025 for administrative costs related to the new license plates. Any fiscal effected associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2558–Armed Services Occupation Medal Plate

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2558, as introduced, KDOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its expenditures by \$4,410 in FY 2025 for administrative costs related to designing and manufacturing the new license plates. Any fiscal effected associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Armed Services Occupation Medal; 1st Infantry Division; disabled veteran; disability determination; distinctive license plate; motor vehicles; service-connected disability; veterans and military

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