

SENATE BILL No. 132

By Senators Pittman, Faust-Goudeau and Haley

2-1

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to distinctive license plates;
2 providing for the buffalo soldier license plate.

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4
5 WHEREAS, Buffalo soldiers were African American soldiers who
6 mainly served on the western frontier following the American civil war;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In 1866, six all-black cavalry and infantry regiments were
9 created after congress passed the army organization act; and

10 WHEREAS, The soldiers of the all-black 9th and 10th cavalry regiments
11 were dubbed "buffalo soldiers" by the native Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1867, the 10th cavalry was based in Fort Leavenworth,
13 Kansas, and commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson; and

14 WHEREAS, About 20% of U.S. cavalry troops that participated in
15 what is commonly known as the Indian wars were buffalo soldiers, who
16 participated in at least 177 conflicts; and

17 WHEREAS, These same units were critical to the Spanish American
18 war, conflicts in the Philippines, World War I and World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, Often facing blatant racism and enduring brutal weather
20 conditions, buffalo soldiers earned a reputation for serving courageously;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In 1948, President Harry Truman issued executive order
23 9981 eliminating racial segregation in America's armed forces, resulting in
24 the disbanding of all-black units during the 1950s; and

25 WHEREAS, The installation of the buffalo soldier monument at Fort
26 Leavenworth was initiated by General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint
27 chiefs of staff, who was the first African American to serve in that capacity
28 and dedicated in 1992 to the memory of the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments
29 of the U.S. army; and

30 WHEREAS, The buffalo soldier legacy continues to ensure that the
31 rich heritage of African Americans and their profound effect on American
32 society will not be lost; and

33 WHEREAS, There exists on Fort Leavenworth a museum called the
34 frontier museum, currently a world-class museum, that tells the story of
35 Fort Leavenworth from 1827 to 1917 and the history of the frontier army
36 from 1804 when Lewis and Clark passed through; and

1 WHEREAS, There is an effort, supported by Fort Leavenworth
2 leadership and the department of defense, to reimagine the frontier army
3 museum and make it more accessible to the public; and

4 WHEREAS, A new frontier army museum is being planned outside the
5 gates of Fort Leavenworth that will tell the story of the frontier and will
6 include a focus on the buffalo soldiers; and

7 WHEREAS, A current museum is within close proximity to the future
8 site of the frontier army museum, named the Richard Allen cultural center,
9 housed in the former home of a buffalo soldier; and

10 WHEREAS, Part of the Richard Allen cultural center's mission is to tell
11 the story of the buffalo soldier and more broadly the African American
12 experience locally; and

13 WHEREAS, The Richard Allen cultural center stands in support of this
14 new frontier army museum in expanding the channels to tell that story in
15 the context of the military and will dedicate a portion of the funds
16 generated from the issuance of this license plate to that new museum. The
17 Richard Allen cultural center works with the charitable organization
18 established by the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments to support other parts of
19 its mission such as tutoring at risk children in the area; and

20 WHEREAS, This reimaged army museum will be built and run with
21 private funds, with this being but one of those funding sources.

22 Now, therefore:

23 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

24 Section 1. (a) On and after January 1, 2024, any owner or lessee of
25 one or more passenger vehicles or trucks registered for a gross weight of
26 20,000 pounds or less who is a resident of Kansas, upon compliance with
27 the provisions of this section, may be issued one buffalo soldier license
28 plate for each such passenger vehicle or truck. Such license plate shall be
29 issued for the same time as other license plates upon proper registration
30 and payment of the regular license fee as provided in K.S.A. 8-143, and
31 amendments thereto, and either the payment to the county treasurer of the
32 logo use royalty payment or the presentation of the annual logo use
33 authorization statement provided for in subsection (b).

34 (b) The Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc. may authorize
35 the use of the organization's logo to be affixed on license plates as
36 provided by this section. Any motor vehicle owner or lessee may apply
37 annually to the Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc. for use of
38 such logo. Such owner or lessee shall pay an amount of not less than \$25
39 nor more than \$100 to the Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc. as
40 a logo use royalty payment for each such license plate to be issued. The
41 logo use royalty payment shall be paid to either:

42 (1) The Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc., which shall
43 issue to the motor vehicle owner or lessee, without further charge, a logo

1 use authorization statement that shall be presented by the motor vehicle
2 owner or lessee at the time of registration; or

3 (2) the county treasurer.

4 (c) Any applicant for a license plate authorized by this section may
5 make application for such license plate not less than 60 days prior to such
6 person's renewal of registration date, on a form prescribed and furnished
7 by the director of vehicles, and any applicant for such license plate shall
8 either provide the annual logo use authorization statement provided for in
9 subsection (b) or pay to the county treasurer the logo use royalty payment.
10 Application for registration of a passenger vehicle or truck and issuance of
11 the license plate under this section shall be made by the owner or lessee in
12 a manner prescribed by the director of vehicles upon forms furnished by
13 the director.

14 (d) No registration or license plate issued under this section shall be
15 transferable to any other person.

16 (e) The director of vehicles may transfer a buffalo soldier license plate
17 from a leased vehicle to a purchased vehicle.

18 (f) Renewals of registration under this section shall be made annually,
19 upon payment of the fee prescribed in K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments
20 thereto, and in the manner prescribed in K.S.A. 8-132(b), and amendments
21 thereto. No renewal of registration shall be made to any applicant until
22 such applicant provides to the county treasurer either the annual logo use
23 authorization statement provided for in subsection (b) or the payment of
24 the annual royalty payment. If such statement is not presented at the time
25 of registration or sent by the Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc.,
26 or the annual royalty payment is not made to the county treasurer, the
27 applicant shall be required to comply with the provisions of K.S.A. 8-143,
28 and amendments thereto, and return the license plate to the county
29 treasurer of such person's residence.

30 (g) The Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc. shall provide to
31 all county treasurers an electronic mail address where applicants can
32 contact the Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc. for information
33 concerning the application process or the status of such applicant's license
34 plate application.

35 (h) The Richard Allen cultural center & museum, inc., with the
36 approval of the director of vehicles, shall design a plate to be issued under
37 the provisions of this section.

38 (i) As a condition of receiving the buffalo soldier license plate and
39 any subsequent registration renewal of such license plate, the applicant
40 shall consent to the division authorizing the division's release of motor
41 vehicle record information, including the applicant's name, address,
42 royalty payment amount, plate number and vehicle type to the Richard
43 Allen cultural center & museum, inc. and the state treasurer.

1 (j) The collection and remittance of annual royalty payments by the
2 county treasurer shall be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 8-1,141(h),
3 and amendments thereto, except that payments from the buffalo soldier
4 royalty fund shall be made on a monthly basis to the Richard Allen cultural
5 center & museum, inc. of which a portion of such funds shall be dedicated
6 to the construction and maintenance of the reimagined frontier museum.

7 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the statute book.