

**KRS CHAPTER 186  
LICENSING OF MOTOR VEHICLES, OPERATORS, AND TRAILERS  
(Selected Sections)**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**KRS 186.010 Definitions**

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- (2) "**Highway**" means every way or place of whatever nature when any part of it is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, license, or privilege, for the purpose of vehicular traffic.
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- (4) "**Motor vehicle**" means in KRS 186.020 to 186.260, all vehicles, as defined in paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of this section, which are propelled otherwise than by muscular power. As used in KRS 186.400 to 186.640, it means all vehicles, as defined in paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of this section, which are self-propelled. "Motor vehicle" shall not include a moped as defined in this section, but shall include low-speed vehicles as defined in this section.
- (5) "**Moped**" means either a motorized bicycle whose frame design may include one (1) or more horizontal crossbars supporting a fuel tank so long as it also has pedals, or a motorized bicycle with a step-through type frame which may or may not have pedals rated no more than two (2) brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged, and capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.
- (6) "**Operator**" means any person in actual control of a motor vehicle upon a highway.
- (7) (a) "**Owner**" means a person who holds the legal title of a vehicle or a person who pursuant to a bona fide sale has received physical possession of the vehicle subject to any applicable security interest.
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- (8) (a) "**Vehicle,**" as used in KRS 186.020 to 186.260, includes all agencies for the transportation of persons or property over or upon the public highways of this Commonwealth and all vehicles passing over or upon said highways, excepting road rollers, road graders, farm tractors, vehicles on which power shovels are mounted, such other construction equipment customarily used only on the site of construction and which is not practical for the transportation of persons or property upon the highways, such vehicles as travel exclusively upon rails, and such vehicles as are propelled by electric power obtained from overhead wires while being operated within any municipality or where said vehicles do not travel more than five (5) miles beyond the city limit of any municipality.
- (b) As used in KRS 186.400 to 186.640, "vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human and animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks, or which derives its power from overhead wires.
- (9) KRS 186.020 to 186.270 apply to motor vehicle licenses. KRS 186.400 to 186.640 apply to operator's licenses.
- (10) "**Dealer**" means any person engaging in the business of buying or selling motor vehicles.
- (11) "**Commercial vehicles**" means all motor vehicles that are required to be registered under the terms of KRS 186.050, but not including vehicles primarily designed for carrying passengers and having provisions for not more than nine (9) passengers (including driver), motorcycles, sidecar attachments, pickup trucks and passenger vans which are not being used for commercial or business purposes, and motor vehicles registered under KRS 186.060.
- (12) "**Resident**" means any person who has established Kentucky as his or her state of domicile. Proof of residency shall include, but not be limited to, a deed or property tax bill, utility agreement or utility bill, or rental housing agreement. The possession by an operator of a vehicle of a valid Kentucky operator's license shall be prima-facie evidence that the operator

is a resident of Kentucky.

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- (14) **"Instruction permit"** includes both motor vehicle instruction permits and motorcycle instruction permits.
- (15) **"Motorcycle"** means any motor driven vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, including vehicles on which the operator and passengers ride in an enclosed cab. Motorcycle shall include an alternative-speed motorcycle as defined in this section, but shall not include a tractor, or a moped as defined in this section.
- (16) **"Low-speed vehicle"** means a motor vehicle that
- (a) Is self-propelled using an electric motor, combination driven motor, or a combination thereof;
  - (b) Is four (4) wheeled; and
  - (c) Is designed to operate at a speed not to exceed twenty-five (25) miles per hour as certified by the manufacturer.
- (17) **"Alternative-speed motorcycle"** means a motorcycle that:
- (a) Is self-propelled using an electric motor, combustion driven motor, or a combination thereof;
  - (b) Is three (3) wheeled;
  - (c) Has a fully enclosed cab and includes at least one door for entry; and
  - (d) Is designed to operate at a speed not to exceed forty (40) miles per hour as certified by the manufacturer.
- (18) **"Multiple-vehicle driving range"** means an enclosed area that is not part of a highway or otherwise open to the public on which a number of motor vehicles may be used simultaneously to provide driver training under the supervision of one (1) or more driver training instructors.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES

**KRS 186.020 Registration requirement – Application for registration – Application and other documents to be sent to Transportation Cabinet – Renewal by mail – Extension of renewal period for military personnel stationed outside the United States**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(1)

- (1) Before the owner of a motor vehicle, other than a motor vehicle engaged in the transportation of passengers for hire operating under a certificate of convenience and necessity, may operate it or permit its operation upon a highway, the owner shall apply for registration . . . , except that a person who purchases a motor vehicle, or brings a motor vehicle into the Commonwealth from another state shall make application for registration within fifteen (15) days. The bill of sale or assigned title must be in the motor vehicle during this fifteen (15) day period. . . .
- (2) After that, the owner of any motor vehicle registered under KRS 186.050(1) or (2) shall register his motor vehicle on or before the date on which his certificate of registration expires. If, before operating the motor vehicle in this state, the owner registers it at some later date and pays the fee for the full year, he will be deemed to have complied with the law. Insofar as the owner is concerned, registration with the clerk shall be deemed to be registration with the cabinet.

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**KRS 186.070 Registration of manufacturers and dealers – Dealer's plates and stickers – Names of drivers authorized to use dealer's plates to be available to law enforcement agencies – Revocation of licenses – Appeal**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(9)

- (1) (a) Every . . . dealer in . . . motor vehicles in this state shall register with each county clerk in which his principal office or place of business and branch office, sub-agent, or agency is located . . . .  
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- (c) A motor vehicle bearing dealer's plates may be used on the highways only by the following people:
1. A licensed dealer, bona fide salesman, or employee of the dealer;
  2. A . . . dealer licensed pursuant to the laws of this state transporting a motor vehicle to his place of retail business from a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in motor vehicles; and
  3. A bona fide customer of a licensed dealer, or the customer's employees when a motor vehicle is being demonstrated. This provision shall be limited to one (1) trip or demonstration to the same prospective customer.
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- (e) As used in this section, "**bona fide salesman or employee**" means a licensed salesman, or an employee, who is actively engaged in and devotes a substantial part of his time to the conduct of the dealer business.
- (f) A vehicle bearing a dealer plate, except when the vehicle is being transported to a dealer's place of business from a manufacturer, shall have, in the case of a new motor vehicle, a "monrone" sticker attached to the vehicle, or, in the case of a used motor vehicle, a Federal Trade Commission buyer's guide sticker attached to the vehicle.
- (2) (a) \* \* \* \* \*
- (b) The names of each dealer and each bona fide salesman and employee shall be entered by the clerk into the AVIS where it will be readily available to law enforcement agencies.

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**KRS 186.072 Commercial motor vehicle temporary registration placard – Application process – Uses – Record of use – Activation**  
**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(2)

- (1) For the purposes of this section, "motor truck" and "truck tractor" shall have the same meaning as established in KRS 189.010.
- (2) Any manufacturer, dealer, or distributor engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling, or customizing truck tractors or motor trucks may obtain a commercial motor vehicle temporary registration placard from the Department of Vehicle Regulation. The fee for each placard shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) per placard and each applicant shall specify the number of placards to be issued. A company may make additional requests for temporary placards at any time it exhausts the placards supplied by the department.
- (3) The commissioner shall prescribe the application form for the commercial vehicle temporary registration placard, require each applicant to submit proof of eligibility to receive the placard, and certify that the applicant has need of the placard in the ordinary course of business, and may request other information as part of the application process.
- (4) The commercial vehicle temporary registration placard shall be placed on a truck tractor or motor truck in the same manner as a regular license plate. The temporary placard shall be issued if a permanent registration issued pursuant to KRS 186.050 or temporary registration issued pursuant to KRS 186A.100 cannot be obtained.
- (5) The use of a commercial vehicle temporary placard shall be limited to the following activities:
  - (a) A demonstration of the truck tractor or motor truck to a prospective purchaser;
  - (b) The transportation of the truck tractor or motor truck to a facility engaged in the customizing of a motor vehicle for eventual use on the highway;
  - (c) The transportation of the truck tractor or motor truck to a trade show or other activity designed to promote the selling of the product; or
  - (d) The transportation of the truck tractor or motor truck by a purchaser to a location outside Kentucky, provided that the truck tractor or motor truck is not eligible to be registered in Kentucky.

- (6) Each manufacturer, dealer, or distributor receiving the temporary placards shall maintain a record of use for each temporary placard to include the following:
  - (a) The make and model of each motor vehicle and the vehicle identification number or other identification number of each vehicle on which a placard is used;
  - (b) The date the placard was issued and the registration number of the placard;
  - (c) The address of the final destination and reason for movement of the truck tractor or motor truck receiving the temporary placard; and
  - (d) A record of insurance coverage or a binder for insurance coverage issued to the recipient of the temporary placard.
- (7) A commercial vehicle temporary placard shall not be activated until it is placed upon the truck tractor or motor truck and used in a manner as authorized by subsection (5) of this section. The commercial vehicle temporary placard shall expire thirty (30) days after it is activated and placed in use on a truck tractor or motor truck and shall be designed in a manner that an expiration date shall be noted clearly on the face of the placard.

**KRS 186.073 Commercial trailer temporary registration placard – Application process – Uses – Record of use – Activation**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(1)

- (1) For the purposes of this section, “semitrailer” and “trailer” shall have the same meaning as established in KRS 186.650.
- (2) Any manufacturer, dealer, or distributor engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling, or customizing commercial semitrailers or commercial trailers may obtain a commercial trailer temporary registration placard from the Department of Vehicle Regulation. The fee for each placard shall be five dollars (\$5) per placard and each applicant shall specify the number of placards to be issued. A company may make additional requests for temporary placards at any time it exhausts the placards supplied by the department.
- (3) The commissioner shall prescribe the application form for the commercial trailer temporary registration placard, require each applicant to submit proof of eligibility to receive the placard, and certify that the applicant has need of the placard in the ordinary course of business, and may request other information as part of the application process.
- (4) The commercial trailer temporary registration placard shall be placed on a semitrailer or trailer in the same manner as a regular trailer license plate. The temporary placard shall be issued if a permanent registration issued pursuant to KRS 186.655 cannot be obtained.
- (5) The use of a commercial trailer temporary registration placard shall be limited to the following activities:
  - (a) A demonstration of the semitrailer or trailer to a prospective purchaser;
  - (b) The transportation of the semitrailer or trailer to a trade show or other activity designed to promote the selling of the product;
  - (c) The transportation of the semitrailer or trailer to a trade show or other activity designed to promote the selling of the product;
  - (d) The transportation of the semitrailer or trailer by a purchaser to a location outside Kentucky, provided that the semitrailer or trailer is not eligible to be registered in Kentucky; or
  - (e) Transportation of a trailer or semitrailer from the manufacturer to a place of business in Kentucky in order to obtain a permanent registration issued pursuant to KRS 186.655.
- (6) Each manufacturer, dealer, or distributor receiving the temporary placards shall maintain a record of use for each temporary placard to include the following:
  - (a) The make and model of each semitrailer or trailer and the vehicle identification number or other identification number of each vehicle on which a placard is used;
  - (b) The date the placard was issued and the registration number of the placard; and
  - (c) The address of the final destination and reason for movement of the semitrailer or trailer receiving the temporary placard.
- (7) A commercial trailer temporary registration placard shall not be activated until it is placed upon the semitrailer or trailer and used in a manner as authorized by subsection (5) of this section. The commercial trailer temporary registration placard shall expire thirty (30) days

after it is activated and placed in use on a semitrailer or trailer and shall be designed in a manner that an expiration date shall be noted clearly on the face of the placard.

**KRS 186.140 Reciprocity for nonresidents**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(1)

Except as provided in KRS 281.835 and 281.836, a nonresident owner, from a state not requiring registration of nonresidents temporarily in it, who has complied with the laws of the state of his residence relating to registration of motor vehicles, and who displays the requisite plates and holds the requisite receipt or certificate of registration as required by his resident state, shall be exempt from registration in this state for the same period of time as is granted to nonresident owners by the laws and regulations of his state. Registration in any other state shall not relieve any owner resident in this state from the penalties provided in KRS 186.990.

**KRS 186.150 Residents not to use license of other states**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(9)

- (1) No resident operating a motor vehicle on the highways, shall secure or license the motor vehicle in any state other than Kentucky unless so licensed in conformity with a motor vehicle reciprocal arrangement or under the international registration plan.
- (2) The use of a license of any state other than Kentucky by a resident of this state on his car driven over Kentucky highways shall be prima facie evidence of guilt.

**KRS 186.170 Display of registration plates, insignia – Decals to cover corporation trademark – Registration years**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(1)

- (1) Except as provided in this subsection and in KRS 186.045, the owner shall have the receipt issued by the cabinet through the county clerk constantly in his possession, and shall display the registration plate conspicuously upon the rear of the motor vehicle, except that the registration plate upon a semitrailer-tractor shall be displayed upon the front of the tractor. The owner's copy, or a reproduced copy thereof, of the registration receipt of every motor vehicle, except motorcycles, licensed under KRS 186.050 shall be kept in the vehicle at all times and shall be available for inspection. Plates shall be kept legible at all times and the rear plate shall be illuminated when being operated during the hours designated in KRS 189.030. No rim, frame, or other covering around the plate shall in any way obscure or cover any lettering or decal on the plate . . . .

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**KRS 186.181 Seizure of cancelled plates by Department of Kentucky State Police**

. . . . It shall be the duty of all members of the State Police and of all peace officers to seize any registration plate bearing a canceled number and to report such seizure to the appropriate department.

**OPERATOR'S LICENSE**

**KRS 186.401 Definitions of "operator's license" and "commercial driver's license"**

As used in KRS 186.400 to 186.640, a **driver's license** shall mean an operator's license issued pursuant to KRS 186.412 and a **commercial driver's license** shall mean a license issued pursuant to KRS Chapter 281A.

**KRS 186.410 Operator's licenses – Requirements and issuance – Nondriver identification cards – Validity – Driver training programs**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

- (1) Every person except those exempted by KRS 186.420 and 186.430 shall before operating a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped upon a highway secure an operator's license as

provided in this chapter.

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**KRS 186.412 License application – \* \* \* \* - Limitation on number of licenses \* \* \* \* \***

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

- (1) (a) A person who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years and is under the age of twenty-one (21) at the time of application for an instruction permit may apply for an operator's license to operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped if the person has possessed the valid instruction permit for at least one hundred eighty (180) days. A person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of application for an instruction permit may apply for an operator's license to operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped if the person has possessed the valid instruction permit for at least thirty (30) days.

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- (16) A person shall not have more than one (1) license.

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**KRS 186.415 Application of operator's license by military enlistee—Conditions**

- (1) Notwithstanding KRS 186.450, 186.452, and 186.454, a person who is under eighteen (18) years of age may apply for an operator's license if the person has:
  - (a) Held an instruction permit for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days; and
  - (b) Enlisted in the United States Armed Forces for a state National Guard.
- (2) An individual eligible to apply for an operator's license under this section shall present proof of enlistment at the time of application.

**KRS 186.420 Exemptions of operators of road or farm machinery and persons in armed forces**

- (1) No person need obtain an operator's license to operate a road roller, road machinery or any tractor or implement of husbandry temporarily drawn or propelled on the highways.
- (2) Every person in the service of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States, when furnished with an operator's permit from the United States, shall be exempt from an operator's license when operating an official vehicle in the course of his service.

**KRS 186.430 Exemption of nonresidents**

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person over the age of sixteen (16) who is a United States citizen and who is not a resident of Kentucky may drive in Kentucky for a period of time not to exceed one (1) year from the date the person enters Kentucky if:
  - (a) The person possesses a valid license issued by the person's home state;
  - (b) The person has the license in his or her immediate possession at all times when operating a vehicle on the highways; and
  - (c) The person's home state accords similar privileges to licensed residents of Kentucky.
- (2) A person who is a United States citizen but who is not a resident of Kentucky who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at a university, college, or technical college located in Kentucky may drive in Kentucky on a valid license issued by the person's state of domicile, and shall not be required to obtain a Kentucky operator's license under this chapter if the person has a student identification card from a university, college, or technical college located in Kentucky in his or her immediate possession at all times when driving in Kentucky.
- (3) A person over the age of sixteen (16) who is not a United States citizen and who is legally visiting this country for less than one (1) year may drive in Kentucky on a valid domestic license issued by the person's country of domicile and shall not be required to obtain a Kentucky driver's license.
- (4) A person over the age of sixteen (16) who is not a United States citizen, who has not been granted status as a permanent resident of the United States, but is a resident of Kentucky, shall be issued a Kentucky operator's license if the person complies with the requirements of

KRS 186.412. . . .

- (5) A person whose operator's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped in this state has been denied, withdrawn, canceled, suspended, or revoked as provided in KRS 186.400 to 186.640 shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped in this state under a license, permit, or registration certificate issued by any other jurisdiction during the period of denial, withdrawal, cancellation, suspension, or revocation.

**KRS 186.435 Application for operator's license by driver who becomes Kentucky resident – Verification of status in other jurisdiction – procedure for permanent residents**

- (1) A licensed driver who becomes a Kentucky resident shall, within thirty (30) days of establishing residency, apply for a Kentucky operator's license in the office of the circuit clerk in the county where the person has established his or her domicile.

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- (3) A person who is not a United States citizen but who has been granted permanent resident status by the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and who is a Kentucky resident, shall follow the same procedures for applying for an original, renewal, transfer, or duplicate operator's license as persons who are United States citizens.

**KRS 186.440 Persons ineligible for operator's license – Reinstatement fee and exemption**

An operator's license shall not be granted to:

- (1) Any person who is not a resident of Kentucky;
- (2) Any person under the age of sixteen (16);
- (3) Any person under the age of eighteen (18) who holds a valid Kentucky instruction permit issued pursuant to KRS 186.450, but who has not graduated from high school or who is not enrolled and successfully participating in school or who is not being schooled at home, except those persons who satisfy the District Court of appropriate venue pursuant to KRS 159.051(3) that revocation of their license would create an undue hardship. Persons under the age of eighteen (18) shall present proof of complying with the requirements of KRS 159.051;
- (4) Any person whose operator's license has been suspended, during the period of suspension;
- (5) Any person whose operator's license has been revoked, nor to any nonresident whose privilege of exemption under KRS 186.430 has been refused or discontinued, until the expiration of the period for which the license was revoked, or for which the privilege was refused or discontinued;
- (6) Any applicant adjudged incompetent by judicial decree;
- (7) Any person who in the opinion of the State Police, after examination, is unable to exercise reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle upon the highways;
- (8) Any person who is unable to understand highway warnings or direction signs in the English language;
- (9) Any person required by KRS 186.480 to take an examination who has not successfully passed the examination;
- (10) Any person required by KRS Chapter 187 to deposit proof of financial responsibility, who has not deposited that proof;
- (11) Any person who has not filed a correct and complete application attested to in the presence of a person authorized to administer oaths;
- (12) Any person who cannot meet the requirements set forth in KRS 186.411(1) or (3); or
- (13) Any person whose operator's license has been suspended or revoked under the provisions of KRS Chapter 186, 187, or 189A until the person has forwarded to the cabinet a reinstatement fee . . . . The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person whose license was suspended for failure to meet the conditions set out in KRS 186.411 when, within one (1) year of suspension, the driving privileges of the individuals are reinstated or to any student who has had his license revoked pursuant to KRS 159.051.

**KRS 186.450 Instruction permits for motor vehicle and motorcycle – Age requirements – Restrictions on driving with permit**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

- (1) A person who is at least sixteen (16) years of age may apply for an instruction permit to operate a motor vehicle. A person who possesses a valid intermediate motor vehicle operators' license issued under KRS 186.452 or a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age may apply for an instruction permit to operate a motorcycle. A holder of either a motor vehicle or motorcycle instruction permit may also operate a moped under that permit...

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- (3) (a) An instruction permit to operate a motor vehicle shall be valid for three (3) years and may be renewed. An instruction permit to operate a motorcycle shall be valid for one (1) year and may be renewed one (1) time.
- (b) Except as provided in KRS 186.415, a person who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years and is under the age of eighteen (18) years shall have the instruction permit a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days before applying for an intermediate license and shall have an intermediate license for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days before applying for an operator's license.
- (c) A person who was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application for an instruction permit and is eighteen (18) years of age or older shall have the instruction permit a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days and complete a driver training program under KRS 186.410(4) before applying for an operator's license.
- (d) A person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and is under the age of twenty-one (21) years at the time of application for an instruction permit shall have the instruction permit a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days before applying for an operator's license.
- (e) A person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of application for an instruction permit shall have the instruction permit a minimum of thirty (30) days before applying for an operator's license.
- (f) In accordance with KRS 15A.352(5), a person whose motorcycle instruction permit has expired may apply to the circuit clerk to receive a motorcycle operator's license or endorsement if the person presents proof of successful completion of a motorcycle safety education course approved by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet under KRS 15A.350 to 15A.366.
- (4) (a) A person shall have the instruction permit in his possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped upon the highway.
- (b) When operating a motor vehicle, a motor vehicle instruction permit holder shall be accompanied by a person with a valid operator's license who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age occupying the seat beside the operator at all times.
- (c) The requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection shall not apply to a motor vehicle instruction permit holder being supervised on a multiple-vehicle driving range by a driver training instructor affiliated with a driver training school licensed under KRS Chapter 332 or a public or nonpublic secondary school.
- (5) A person with an instruction permit who is under the age of eighteen (18) shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m. unless the person can demonstrate good cause for driving including, but not limited to, emergencies, involvement in school related activities, or involvement in work related activities.
- (6) Except when accompanied by a driver training instructor affiliated with a driver training school licensed under KRS Chapter 332 or a public or non-public secondary school, a person with an instruction permit who is under the age of eighteen (18) years shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time when accompanied by more than one (1) unrelated person who is under the age of twenty (20) years. A peace officer shall not stop or seize a person nor issue a uniform citation for a violation of this subsection if the officer has no other cause to stop or seize the person other than a violation of this subsection. This subsection shall not apply to any operator of a vehicle registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(4) who is engaged in agricultural activities.

- (7) A violation under subsection (4), (5), or (6) of this section, a conviction for a moving violation under KRS Chapter 189 for which points are assessed by the cabinet, or a conviction for a violation of KRS 189A.010(1) shall add an additional minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the violation before a person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years may apply for an intermediate license to operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped.
- (8) A person under the age of eighteen (18) who accumulates more than six (6) points against his driving privilege may have the driving privilege suspended pursuant to KRS Chapter 186 or probated by the court.

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**KRS 186.452 Intermediate License**

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 186.415, a person who is under eighteen (18) years of age may apply for an intermediate license to operate a motor vehicle if the person has:
  - (a) Held an instruction permit a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days without a violation under KRS 186.450(4), (5), or (6), a conviction for a violation under KRS 189.292 or KRS 189.294, a conviction for a moving violation under KRS Chapter 189 for which points are assessed by the cabinet, or a conviction for a violation of KRS 189A.010(1); and
  - (b) Presented a statement to the state police signed by a parent or guardian of the applicant attesting that the applicant has completed at least sixty (60) hours of supervised driving experience, including at least ten (10) hours at night, while accompanied by a person who has attained the age of twenty-one (21) years and holds a valid operator's license occupying the seat beside the applicant.
- (2) If an applicant for an intermediate license successfully completes the examinations required under KRS 186.480, the state police shall affix an intermediate license sticker to the instruction permit and report the applicant's new status to the Transportation Cabinet. The Transportation Cabinet shall update the information in its computer system to reflect that the applicant has been granted an intermediate license. An intermediate license shall be valid for two (2) years and may be renewed.
- (3) A person shall have the intermediate license in his or her possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle.
- (4) A person with an intermediate license who is under the age of eighteen (18) years shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m. unless the person can demonstrate good cause for driving, including emergencies, involvement in school-related activities, or involvement in work-related activities.
- (5) Except when accompanied by a driver training instructor affiliated with a driver training school licensed under KRS Chapter 332 or a public or non-public secondary school, a person with an intermediate license who is under the age of eighteen (18) years shall not operate motor vehicle at any time when accompanied by more than one (1) unrelated person who is under the age of twenty (20) years. A peace officer shall not stop or seize a person nor issue a uniform citation for a violation of this subsection if the officer has no other cause to stop or seize the person other than a violation of this subsection. This subsection shall not apply to any operator of a vehicle registered under the provisions of KRS 186.050(4) who is engaged in agricultural activities.

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**KRS 186.454 Intermediate license holder application process**

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 186.415, a person with an intermediate license who is under the age of eighteen (18) years may apply for an operator's license to operate a motor vehicle if the person has:
  - (a) Held an intermediate license for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days without a conviction for a moving violation under KRS Chapter 189 for which points are assessed by the cabinet, a conviction for a violation of KRS 189.292 or 189.294, a conviction for a

violation of KRS 189A.010(1), or a conviction under KRS 186.452(3), (4), or (5); and  
 (b) Completed a driver training program under KRS 186.410(4).

- (2) A person with an intermediate license who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may apply for an operator's license to operate a motor vehicle if the person has completed a driver training program under KRS 186.410(4).

**KRS 186.510 License to be in possession and to be shown on demand**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

The licensee shall have his license in his immediate possession at all times when driving a motor vehicle and shall display it upon demand to the circuit clerk or examiner, a peace officer, a member of the Kentucky State Police, or a field deputy or inspector of the Department of Vehicle Regulation or Transportation Cabinet or, pursuant to KRS 67A.075 or 83A.088, a safety officer who is in the process of securing information to complete an accident report. It shall be a defense to any charge under this section if the person so charged produces in court an operator's license, issued to him before his arrest and valid at the time of his arrest.

**KRS 186.560 Mandatory revocation or denial of license – Causes – Period of revocation or denial – Prohibition against reductions of certain revocations or denials – Limited exception relating to enrollment in alcohol or substance abuse education or treatment programs**

- (1) The cabinet shall forthwith revoke the license of any operator of a motor vehicle upon receiving record of his or her:

(a) conviction of any of the following offenses:

1. Murder or manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;
2. Driving a vehicle which is not a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may impair one's driving ability;
3. Perjury or the making of a false affidavit under KRS 186.400 to 186.640 or any law requiring the registration of motor vehicles or regulating their operation on highways;
4. Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;
5. Conviction or forfeiture of bail upon three (3) charges of reckless driving within the preceding twelve (12) months;
6. Conviction of driving a motor vehicle involved in an accident and failing to stop and disclose his identity at the scene of the accident;
7. Conviction of theft of a motor vehicle or any of its parts, including the conviction of any person under the age of eighteen (18) years;
8. Failure to have in full force and effect the security required by Subtitle 39 of KRS Chapter 304 upon conviction of a second and each subsequent offense within any five (5) year period;
9. Conviction for fraudulent use of a driver's license or use of a fraudulent driver's license to purchase or attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages, as defined in KRS 241.010, in violation of KRS 244.085; and
10. Conviction of operating a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped without an operator's license as required by KRS 186.410; or

(b) Being found incompetent to stand trial under KRS Chapter 504.

- (2) If the person convicted of any offense named in subsection (1) of this section or who is found incompetent to stand trial is not the holder of a license, the cabinet shall deny the person so convicted a license for the same period of time as though he had possessed a license which had been revoked. If through an inadvertence the defendant should be issued a license, the cabinet shall forthwith cancel it.
- (3) The cabinet upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person upon a charge of operating a motor vehicle while the license of that person is denied or suspended, or revoked, or while his privilege to operate a motor vehicle is withdrawn, shall immediately extend the period of the first denial, suspension, revocation, or withdrawal for an additional like period.

- (4) The revocation or denial of a license or the withdrawal of the privilege of operating a motor vehicle for a violation of subsection (1) (a) of this section shall be for a period of not less than five (5) years. Revocations or denials under this section shall not be subject to any lessening of penalties authorized under any other provision of this section or any other statute.
- (5) Except as provided in subsections (3), (4), (8), and (9) of this section, in all other cases, the revocation or denial of a license or the withdrawal of the privilege of operating a motor vehicle under this section shall be for a period of six (6) months, except that, if the same person has had one (1) previous conviction of any offense enumerated in subsection (1) of this section, regardless of whether the person's license was revoked because of the previous conviction, the period of the revocation, denial, or withdrawal shall be one (1) year; if the person has had more than one (1) previous conviction of the offenses considered collectively as enumerated in subsection (1) of this section, regardless of whether the person's license was revoked for any previous conviction, the period of revocation, denial, or withdrawal shall be for not less than two (2) years. If the cabinet, upon receipt of the written recommendation of the court in which any person has been convicted of violating KRS 189.520(1) or 244.085(5) as relates to instances in which a driver's license or fraudulent driver's license was the identification used or attempted to be used in the commission of the offense, who has had no previous conviction of said offense, the person's operator's license shall not be revoked, but the person's operator's license shall be restricted to any terms and conditions the secretary in his discretion may require, provided the person has enrolled in an alcohol or substance abuse education or treatment program as the cabinet shall require. If the person fails to satisfactorily complete the education or treatment program or violates the restrictions on his operator's license, the cabinet shall immediately revoke his operator's license for a period of six (6) months.
- (6) In order to secure the reinstatement of a license to operate a motor vehicle or motorcycle restored following a period of suspension or revocation pursuant to KRS 189A.070, 189A.080, and 189A.090, the person whose license is suspended or revoked shall comply with the fees and other procedures of the Transportation Cabinet with regard to the reinstatement of suspended or revoked licenses.
- (7) The cabinet shall revoke the license of any operator of a motor vehicle upon receiving notification that the person is under age eighteen (18) and has dropped out of school or is academically deficient, as defined in KRS 159.051(1).
- (8) A person under the age of eighteen (18) who is convicted of the offenses of subsections (1) or (3) of this section, except for subsection (1) (a)8. of this section, shall have his license revoked until he reaches the age of eighteen (18) or shall have his license revoked as provided in this section, whichever penalty will result in the longer period of revocation.
- (9) A revocation or denial of a license or the withdrawal of the privilege of operating a motor vehicle under this section due to a person being found incompetent to stand trial shall extend until the person is found competent to stand trial or the criminal case is dismissed.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS OPERATOR'S LICENSE OFFENSES**

##### **KRS 186.610 Prohibited uses of licenses – Fraud in application**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

No person shall:

- (1) Display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in his possession any operator's license knowing it to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended or altered;
- (2) Lend to, or knowingly permit the use of by, one not entitled to, any operator's license issued to the person so lending or permitting the use of the license;
- (3) Represent as one's own any operator's license not issued to the person displaying the license;
- (4) Fail to surrender to the cabinet upon demand, any operator's license which has been suspended, canceled or revoked;
- (5) Use a false name or give a false address in any application for an operator's license or any renewal or duplicate, or knowingly make a false statement or knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in any application.

**KRS 186.620 Unlawful to drive or permit another to drive without license – Display of license on request of peace officer -- Defense**

**Penalty:** KRS 186.990(3)

- (1) No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned or controlled by him to be driven by any person who has no legal right to drive it or in violation of any of the provisions of KRS 186.400 to 186.640.
- (2) No person who has not applied for an operator's license or whose operator's license has been denied, canceled, suspended or revoked, or whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been withdrawn, shall operate any motor vehicle upon the highways while the license is denied, canceled, suspended, or revoked or his privilege to operate a motor vehicle is withdrawn, or the license has not been applied for.
- (3) If the operator of a motor vehicle on a public highway is requested by a peace officer, authorized to arrest a person for a violation of subsection (2) of this section or KRS 189A.090, to display his operator's license and fails to display his operator's license, that fact shall be admissible in court and shall be prima facie proof of violation of subsection (2) of this section or KRS 189A.090.
- (4) It shall be a defense to a charge under this section and KRS 189A.090 if the person charged presents to the court an operator's license issued to him before the date of the charge and which was valid on the date of the charge.

**PENALTIES**

**KRS 186.990 Penalties**

- (1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 186.020, . . . 186.045(2), . . . 186.140, . . . 186.170, . . . 186.073, . . . shall be guilty of a violation.
  - (2) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS . . . 186.190, 186.072, . . . shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
  - (3) A person who violates the provisions of KRS 186.450 (4), (5), or (6) or KRS 186.452 (3), (4) or (5) shall be guilty of a violation. A person who violates any of the other provisions of KRS 186.400 to 186.640 shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.
- \* \* \* \* \*
- (5) If it appears to the satisfaction of the trial court that any offender under KRS 186.400 to 186.640 has a driver's license but in good faith failed to have it on his or her person or misplaced or lost it, the court may, in its discretion, dismiss the charges against the defendant without fine, imprisonment, or cost.
  - (6) Any person who steals a motor vehicle registration plate or renewal decal shall be guilty of a Class D felony. Displaying a canceled registration plate on a motor vehicle shall be prima facie evidence of guilt under this section.
- \* \* \* \* \*
- (9) Any person who violates any provision of KRS 186.070 or 186.150 shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
  - (10) Any person who operates a vehicle bearing a dealer's plate upon the highways of this Commonwealth with intent to evade the motor vehicle usage tax or registration fee shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class D felony for each subsequent offense.
  - (11) Any person, other than a licensed dealer or manufacturer, who procures a dealer's plate with intent to evade the motor vehicle usage tax or registration fee shall be guilty of a Class D felony.
  - (12) Any resident who unlawfully registers, titles, or licenses a motor vehicle in any state other than Kentucky with intent to evade the motor vehicle usage tax or the registration fee shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if the amount of tax due is less than one hundred dollars (\$100), or of a Class D felony if the amount of tax due is more than one hundred dollars (\$100), and in addition shall be liable for all taxes so evaded with applicable interest and penalties.

**KRS CHAPTER 186A  
AUTOMATED MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM  
(Selected Sections)**

**KRS 186A.065 Prerequisites for operation of motor vehicles or trailers**

**Penalty:** KRS 186A.990(6)

Except as otherwise provided, before the owner of a motor vehicle or trailer may operate it or permit its operation upon the highways of this state, he shall obtain motor vehicle insurance as required by KRS 304.39-080, a certificate of registration, and a license plate and apply for a certificate of title in his name.

**KRS 186A.080 Motor vehicles exempt from title and registration requirements**

No Kentucky certificate of registration, license plate, or certificate of title need be applied for or obtained for:

- (1) A vehicle owned by the United States unless it is registered in this state;
- (2) A vehicle owned by a nonresident of this state, principally operated in another state, properly and currently registered and titled in another state;
- (3) A vehicle regularly engaged in the interstate transportation of persons or property for which a currently effective lawful certificate of title has been issued in another state;
- (4) A vehicle moved solely by animal power;
- (5) An implement of husbandry;
- (6) Special mobile equipment;
- (7) A self-propelled wheelchair or invalid tricycle;
- (8) A pole trailer;
- (9) A motor vehicle engaged in the transportation of passengers for hire operating under a currently valid certificate of convenience and necessity; and
- (10) A moped.

**KRS 186A.095 Time for application for registration and title on vehicle imported into Commonwealth**

An owner of a vehicle for which a certificate of registration or title, and license plate must be obtained shall be allowed a fifteen (15) day grace period from the date on which he purchased a vehicle or brings a vehicle into the Commonwealth from another state, during which time the owner shall apply for and obtain motor vehicle insurance pursuant to KRS 304.39-080, a certificate of registration or title, and a license plate in his name.

**KRS 186A.100 Application, procedure and use for temporary motor vehicle registration**

**Penalty:** KRS 186A.990(4)

- (1) A motor vehicle dealer licensed under KRS 186.070 who sells a vehicle for use upon the highways of this state shall equip the vehicle with a temporary tag executed in the manner prescribed below, which shall be valid for thirty (30) days from the date the vehicle is delivered to the purchaser. . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

- (4) If the owner of a motor vehicle submits to the county clerk a properly completed application for Kentucky certificate of title and registration pursuant to KRS 186A.120, any motor vehicle required to be registered and titled in Kentucky, that is not currently registered and titled in Kentucky, may be equipped with a temporary tag, which shall be valid for thirty (30) days from the date of issuance, issued by the county clerk for the purpose of operating the vehicle in Kentucky while assembling the necessary documents in order to title and register the vehicle in Kentucky. . . .
- (5) The county clerk may issue a temporary tag to the owner of a motor vehicle that is currently registered and titled in Kentucky. . . . A temporary tag authorized by this subsection may

only be issued by the county clerk and shall be valid for a period of between twenty-four (24) hours and seven (7) days, as determined is necessary by the clerk. . . .

**KRS 186A.250 Suspension or revocation of title – Conditions and methods for action**

- (1) The Department of Vehicle Regulation shall suspend or revoke a certificate of title, after giving notice and providing a reasonable opportunity for the holder to be heard, when authorized by any other provision of law, or, if it finds:
  - (a) The certificate of title was fraudulently procured or erroneously issued; or
  - (b) The vehicle has been scrapped, dismantled or destroyed. Suspension or revocation of a certificate of title does not, in itself, affect the validity of a security interest noted on it.
- \* \* \* \* \*
- (4) Any peace officer shall seize and impound any certificate of title which has been suspended or revoked except when such document is in the custody of the Department of Vehicle Regulation or the Department of State Police.

**KRS 186A.305 Alteration or removal of motor vehicle identification number prohibited**

**Penalty:** KRS 186A.990(3)

- (1) No person shall intentionally remove, deface, cover, destroy, alter, or obscure any vehicle identification number, or other distinguishing number, of a motor vehicle or trailer or any part thereof in this state, without written authorization from the Department of State Police, nor shall any person place or stamp, in place of the original manufacturer's serial, motor, or other number or mark upon a vehicle, any number except one assigned thereto by the Department of Vehicle Regulation under the provisions of KRS 186.1911 or authorized agency of another state.
- \* \* \* \* \*

**KRS 186A.310 Selling or receiving of vehicle with identification number removed or altered prohibited**

**Penalty:** KRS 186A.990(3)

- (1) No person shall knowingly buy, sell, offer for sale, receive, or have in his possession, any titled motor vehicle or trailer or component part thereof, from which the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number, or serial number, has been removed, defaced, altered, obscured or destroyed, unless such vehicle or component part has attached thereto an identification number assigned or approved by the Department of Vehicle Regulation under the provisions of KRS 186.1911 or authorized agency of another state in lieu of the manufacturer's number.
- (2) Whenever such vehicle or component part comes into the custody of a peace officer it shall be forfeited under the procedure established in KRS 500.090. Nothing in this section shall, however, preclude the return of such vehicle or parts to the lawful owner thereof following presentation of satisfactory evidence of ownership and assignment of an identification number by the Department of Vehicle Regulation.

**KRS 186A.315 Possession of manufacturer's identification number plates prohibited – Exceptions**

**Penalty:** KRS 186A.990(3)

- (1) No person shall have in his possession a manufacturer's vehicle identification number plate unless it is attached to the vehicle, or vehicle part, to which it was originally affixed by the manufacturer, nor shall any person have any facsimile of such a plate.
- \* \* \* \* \*

**KRS 186A.320 Duties of peace officer in the event a stolen vehicle is located**

- (1) When any peace officer has probable cause to believe that a motor vehicle or trailer, or any component part of such vehicle is stolen, he shall impound such vehicle or part and notify its lawful owner, and when applicable, the agency to which the theft was reported, of the recovery of such vehicle or part and where it may be claimed.
- (2) A vehicle or component part thereof which has been impounded pursuant to this section shall be released to its lawful owner when such owner presents satisfactory evidence of his ownership.
- (3) A vehicle or component part thereof that has been impounded under this section, and which has not been claimed within ninety (90) days following notice of recovery to the owner, or if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable effort, within ninety (90) days following impoundment, is forfeited and shall be disposed of in accordance with procedures set forth in KRS 500.090.

**KRS 186A.325 Trafficking in stolen vehicles or stolen vehicle parts**

- (1) Any person or entity knowingly in possession or control of two (2) or more motor vehicles or trailers or their major component parts or assemblies such as, but not limited to, an engine, transmission, chassis, frame, front clip, rear clip:
  - (a) That are stolen; or
  - (b) Have had their identity obscured, removed or altered, except as an immediate result of the final destruction by crushing, flattening, grinding up, or shredding of a vehicle or vehicle part for purpose of recycling its metallic content; or
  - (c) Have stolen parts on them; or
  - (d) Are comprised of any combination of the above;shall be deemed to be trafficking in stolen vehicles or stolen vehicle parts.
- (2) Trafficking in stolen vehicles or stolen vehicle parts is a Class D felony.

**KRS 186A.330 Duties of law enforcement officer in the event of arrest for violation of trafficking in stolen vehicles or stolen parts**

- (1) Upon the arrest of any person or entity for violation of KRS 186A.325, the law enforcement officer may cause the seizure, pending disposition by the court as provided by subsection (2) of this section, of:
  - (a) All vehicles or vehicle parts, held in violation of KRS 186A.310(1) or 186A.325;
  - (b) All vehicles and other equipment used to transport property in violation of KRS 186A.325;
  - (c) All tools, equipment, and other materials, and all real and personal property used in furtherance of a violation of KRS 186A.325; and
  - (d) All money or other proceeds gained from the violation of KRS 186A.325.
- (2) Upon the conviction of any person or entity for violation of KRS 186A.325, all items seized in accordance with subsection (1) of this section may be forfeited to the state in a manner consistent with procedures for forfeiture set forth in KRS 500.090.

**KRS 186A.345 Definitions to be consistent with KRS 186.010**

Unless the context requires otherwise, terms used in this chapter shall be defined, where applicable, as provided by KRS 186.010.

**PENALTIES**

**KRS 186A.990 Penalties**

- (1) Any person who knowingly gives false, fraudulent, or erroneous information in connection with an application for the registration, and when required, titling of a vehicle, or any application for assignment of a vehicle identification number, or replacement documents, or

gives information in connection with his review of applications, or falsely certifies the truthfulness and accuracy of information supplied in connection with the registration and when required, titling of a vehicle, shall be guilty of forgery in the second degree.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (3) Any person who violates KRS 186A.300 to 186A.315 shall be guilty of a Class D felony.
- (4) Any person who operates a motor vehicle or trailer upon the highways of this state without a temporary tag when one is required, or with one that is expired, improperly executed, or displayed on a vehicle other than the one (1) to which it was legitimately and lawfully issued, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (6) Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter, or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and for which a specific penalty is not prescribed by statute, shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
- (7) Criminal remedies or sanctions provided in this chapter are in addition to, and not exclusive of, any other criminal remedies or sanctions provided elsewhere in the statutes.