

Definitions

Antique Motor Vehicle. A motor vehicle over twenty-five (25) years old with a nonmodified engine and body that is used:

- (A) For participation in, or transportation to and from, club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar uses as a collector's item;
- (B) On the highways for the purpose of selling, testing the operation of, or obtaining repairs to or maintenance on such motor vehicle; and
- (C) For general transportation only on Saturday and Sunday.

Custom-Built Car. A motor vehicle that is built for private use and is not constructed by a licensed manufacturer or re-manufacturer.

Essential Parts. All integral and body parts of a vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which would tend to conceal the identity of the vehicle or substantially alter its appearance, model, type, or mode of operation.

Specially Constructed Vehicle. Every vehicle of a type required to be registered not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not materially altered from its original construction.

Street Rod. A motor vehicle that is a modified antique automobile manufactured prior to 1949.

Reconstructed Vehicle. Every vehicle of a type required to be registered that is materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts, new or used.

Specially Constructed Vehicle. Means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not materially altered from its original construction.

Replica. A custom-built car that is intended to replicate the make, model and year of a manufactured vehicle and whose title clearly identifies the custom-built car as a replica.

Titling & Registration

From Tennessee Department of Revenue:

Titling a Vehicle (Current TN Resident)

Current Tennessee residents can obtain titles for new and used vehicles from their county clerk's office.

Applicants must bring:

For **new** vehicle titles:

- [proof of identification and proof of residency](#)
- manufacturer's Statement of Origin;
- new vehicle's invoice; and
- copy of current registration if transferring your license plate.

For **used** vehicle titles:

- [proof of identification and proof of residency](#)
- a valid certificate of title;
- [odometer disclosure statement](#), if applicable; and
- copy of current registration if transferring your license plate.
- [Affidavit of Non-Dealer Transfers](#) (For gift, low selling, or lineal relative vehicle transfers)

- See more at: <https://www.tn.gov/revenue/article/vehicle-titling-current-residents#sthash.EaNrN4UT.dpuf>

Titling/Registering a Vehicle (New or Relocating to Tennessee)

New residents and those relocating to the state can obtain a vehicle title from their local county clerk's office after emissions testing (if it is required by the county). For locations and hours of emissions testing facilities, visit the [Department of Environment and Conservation's website](#). The Vehicle Inspection Program is found under the Air Pollution Control Division.

To obtain a vehicle title, bring:

- [proof of identification and proof of residency](#)
- passed emissions certificate (if applicable);
- most current out-of-state registration; and
- either the name and address of lienholder to whom you are making payments OR, in the event of no lienholder, your out-of-state title.

- See more at: <https://www.tn.gov/revenue/article/titling-registering-a-vehicle-new-or-relocating-to-tennessee#sthash.DCLFwwYY.dpuf>

Title Only

T.C.A. 55-3-101 (a) Indicates every motor vehicle or motorized bicycle, as defined in chapter 8 of this title, and every trailer, semi trailer, and pole trailer as defined by § 55-1-105, when driven or moved upon a highway, and every mobile home or house trailer when occupied shall be subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of chapters 1-6 of this title, except as indicated in T.C.A. 55-3-101 (1) through 55-3-101 (4).

However, there are certain instances when a Title Only is applicable:

1. Out-of-state Repossession.
2. Insurance company settlement.
3. Dealership selling vehicle out of state (must be accompanied with name and address of out-of-state resident along with letter from out-of-state DMV advising they will not accept our documentation if applicable).
4. The owner of a mobile home.
5. Non-profit organization, examples: American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Churches, etc.

In all other instances of an owner's desiring to apply for a certificate of title without registering the vehicle, a written request outlining the reasons and need will be necessary. Consideration for approval for title without registration may be requested by writing to:

Tennessee Department of Revenue
Taxpayer and Vehicle Services Division
Information Unit
44 Vantage Way, Suite 160
Nashville , TN 37243-8050

Antique Auto - This plate is available to any individual submitting the Certification for Antique Registration form, certifying the motor vehicle is an antique. The vehicle must be 25 years old with a non-modified engine and body. An antique motor vehicle can be a passenger vehicle or a motorcycle; however, the fee is the same for both. An antique plate may not be transferred from one vehicle to another. If the motor vehicle owner to whom an antique license has been issued sells the vehicle, purchases another antique vehicle and wishes to retain the same plate, he may do so by paying the full fee. A motor vehicle registered as an antique solely as a collector's item can only be used for participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades and similar uses; and which may be used for general transportation only on Saturday and Sunday. The annual fee for this plate is \$26.75 and it cannot be personalized.



From Tennessee Code:

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 2 --Special License Plates

Tenn. Code § 55-4-230 (2016)

55-4-230. Street rod. (Obsolete)

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 1 Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law--Definitions

Tenn. Code § 55-1-106 (2016)

55-1-106. "Essential parts," "reconstructed vehicle" and "specially constructed vehicle" defined.

(1) "Essential parts" means all integral and body parts of a vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which would tend to conceal the identity of the vehicle or substantially alter its appearance, model, type, or mode of operation;

(2) "**Reconstructed vehicle**" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts, new or used; and

(3) "**Specially** constructed **vehicle**" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not materially altered from its original construction.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 1 Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law--Definitions

Tenn. Code § 55-1-124 (2016)

55-1-124. "Custom-built car" defined.

"Custom-built car" means a motor vehicle that is built for private use and is not constructed by a licensed manufacturer or re-manufacturer.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 3 Certificates of Title
Part 1 --General Provisions

Tenn. Code § 55-3-104 (2016)

55-3-104. Application for certificate of title for specially constructed, reconstructed or foreign vehicles.

(a) In the event a vehicle for which an application for a certificate of title is made is a specially constructed, **reconstructed** or foreign **vehicle**, this fact shall be stated in the application and with reference to every foreign vehicle that has been registered outside of this state, the owner shall surrender to the county clerk receiving the application all registration plates, registration cards, certificates of title, and other evidence of foreign registration and ownership as may be in the possession or under the control of the owner.

(b) Any foreign certificate of title shall be accepted as evidence of title by the department to the same extent as a certificate of title issued by the department; provided, that when the foreign vehicle is registered in a jurisdiction that does not have a certificate of title law, the department shall accept only a notarized bill of sale, and proper foreign registration as the evidence of title. If foreign registration is dated less than ninety (90) days prior to application for a certificate of title, there shall be, in addition, the next past bill of sale showing ownership to have been transferred to the party seeking to sell the same, or that party's representative, which bill of sale shall likewise be notarized.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 3 Certificates of Title
Part 1 --General Provisions

Tenn. Code § 55-3-140 (2016)

55-3-140. Title to replica model custom-built car.

Title to a **custom-built car** for which no certificate of title has ever been issued by the division may be titled as the make, model and year of the manufactured motor **vehicle that the custom-built car** most closely resembles; provided, however, that the car is intended to replicate the make, model and year of the manufactured vehicle; and provided further, that the title clearly identifies the **custom-built car** as a **replica**.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 1 --General Provisions

Tenn. Code § 55-4-134 (2016)

55-4-134. Replica license plates.

(a) Any **replica** license **plate** manufactured or sold in this state purporting to be an official license plate previously issued by the state shall include the language "REPLICA" in at least twenty-four (24) point type on the face of the **replica** license **plate**.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 1 --General Provisions

Tenn. Code § 55-4-111 (2016)

55-4-111. Registration fees -- Classification of vehicles -- Registration taxes.

(a) (1) In order to facilitate efficient and uniform enforcement of chapters 1-3, this chapter and chapters 5 and 6 of this title, motor vehicles, excepting such motor vehicles as are constructed for the purpose of transporting tangible personal property or other property, and passenger motor vehicles operating for hire, are classified, and the respective registration taxes imposed are fixed as follows: [Click here to view image.](#)

(2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the first one dollar (\$1.00) of each registration fee imposed by subdivision (a)(1) shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the police pay supplement fund.

(b) (1) Upon receipt of an application on a form prescribed by the commissioner, applying for registration and certifying that the motor vehicle for which registration is being applied is an "antique motor vehicle," the commissioner may issue license plates to owners of antique motor vehicles in accordance with the provisions of part 2 of this chapter. These license plates shall bear the word "ANTIQUE" in capital letters at the bottom of their plate, and a unique identifying number in the center of the plate. For the purpose of this section, "antique motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle over twenty-five (25) years old with a nonmodified engine and body that is used:

(A) For participation in, or transportation to and from, club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar uses as a collector's item;

(B) On the highways for the purpose of selling, testing the operation of, or obtaining repairs to or maintenance on such motor vehicle; and

(C) For general transportation only on Saturday and Sunday.

(2) This registration shall be valid so long as title to the antique motor vehicle is vested in the applicant, and shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter requiring annual registration.

(3) Any person violating this section, or operating an antique motor vehicle for general transportation purposes on a day other than Saturday or Sunday, shall forfeit the antique motor vehicle registration, shall be liable for the regular registration fee for that vehicle, and shall be barred from applying for or holding antique motor vehicle registration for five (5) years from the date of the violation.

(4) The owner or lessee of an antique motor vehicle may display the license plates from an era when the manufacture of such vehicle occurred instead of the current license plates; provided, that current license plates are maintained in the vehicle by the owner or lessee and produced for inspection upon the request of any law enforcement officer.

(5) The department shall permit owners of antique motor vehicles to register an official license plate issued by the state from an era when the manufacture of the vehicle occurred instead of registering for new license plates in accordance with part 2 of this chapter. The vintage license plate shall be displayed on the motor vehicle in accordance with this chapter.

(c) (1) There shall be no tax on trailers owned by farmers and used for agricultural purposes or hauling livestock between farm and market.

(2) This section shall not apply to trailers:

(A) Used for the transportation of boats or drawn by an automobile or truck, unless the owner desires that the trailer be registered;

(B) Used in the furtherance of a business; or

(C) That are truck trailers registered under [§ 55-4-113](#).

(3) This section shall apply to house trailers and rented trailers as defined in this section and to any personal trailer, including a trailer used for the transportation of boats or other trailer or semitrailer drawn by an automobile or truck, that is not required to be registered but that the owner desires to be registered.

(d) Each person engaged in the business of renting trailers of any description to others for a consideration may register each trailer, for a period of ten (10) years, and annually pay the registration fee; provided, that every owner of automobile utility trailers engaged in the business of leasing such trailers in interstate as well as intrastate commerce shall register with the commissioner that the person is so engaged in the business of leasing such trailers in interstate as well as intrastate commerce, and shall furnish proof to the commissioner that the person has registered in the state, a number of trailers equal to the average number of automobile utility trailers operated by this person during the preceding licensing year in and through this state. Thereafter, all such trailers properly identified as belonging to the registered person and licensed in any state, territory, province, country or the District of Columbia shall be permitted to operate in this state on an interstate and intrastate basis. For the purpose of interstate and intrastate reciprocal provisions of this chapter, the utility trailers shall be classified the same as private passenger automobiles and extended the same privileges. The burden of submitting verifiable data as to the average number of trailers operating during the preceding licensing year in and throughout this state shall be on the trailer owner. The commissioner's determination in and through the state during the preceding licensing year shall be final.

(e) Only one (1) registration plate shall be issued for trailers.

(f) For the purposes of this section, "mobile home" or "house trailer" is a trailer or semitrailer which is designed, constructed and equipped as a dwelling place, living abode or sleeping place, either permanently or temporarily, and is equipped for use as a conveyance on streets and highways, or whose chassis and exterior shell are designed and constructed for use as a house trailer, but which is used instead for the advertising, sales, display or promotion of merchandise or services, or for any other commercial purpose except the transportation of property for hire or for distribution by a private carrier.

Title 56 Insurance
Chapter 7 Policies and Policyholders
Part 11 --General Provisions--Auto Insurance

Tenn. Code § 56-7-1111 (2016)

56-7-1111. Antique automobiles -- Valuation.

(a) If, at the request of the insurer, an appraisal of personal property to be insured under an **automobile** policy insuring an **antique automobile** is made, then, in the absence of fraud, the appraised value of the property shall be binding on the insurer if the insurer:

(1) Charges and accepts a premium for the policy or endorsement to the policy that is based on the amount of the appraised value; and

(2) Issues a policy or endorsement to the policy that provides coverage of the property in the amount of the appraised value.

(b) This section shall apply only to policies insuring **antique automobiles** delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this state after July 1, 1990.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 2 --Special License Plates

Tenn. Code § 55-4-202 (2016)

55-4-202. Issuance -- Category -- Supplemental registration -- Eligibility. [Amended effective January 1, 2010. See the Compiler's Notes.]

(a) All registration plates issued under this part shall be issued in one (1) of the following categories:

- (1) Antique motor vehicle;
- (2) Cultural;
- (3) Dealer;
- (4) Disabled;
- (5) Emergency;
- (6) Firefighter;
- (7) General assembly;
- (8) Government service;
- (9) Judiciary;
- (10) Memorial;
- (11) National Guard;
- (12) New specialty earmarked;
- (13) OEM headquarters company;
- (14) Sheriff;
- (15) Specialty earmarked;
- (16) United States house of representatives;
- (17) United States judge; and
- (18) United States senate.

(b)
(1) Registration plates currently provided under the "dealer", "government service", "disabled", and "national guard" categories shall be issued in design configurations and colors which distinguish the plates from those of other categories, and in a manner which would avoid confusion with any other registration plates.

(2) Registration plates issued in any other category shall be issued in a design configuration distinctive to that category and determined by the commissioner, and shall bear at the top of the plate the word "Tennessee" or "Tenn" and at the bottom the name of the category. In addition, the plates in each category may bear identifying letter prefixes to distinguish the group within the category, and shall bear identifying number suffixes to identify the individual registrant.

(c) The groups within each category having multiple plates shall be as follows:

- (1) Emergency:
 - (A) Amateur radio;
 - (B) Auxiliary police;
 - (C) Civil air patrol;
 - (D) Civil defense;
 - (E) Rescue squad;
 - (F) Emergency services squad, including, but not limited to, emergency medical technicians and paramedics;
 - (G) Police officer;
 - (H) Trauma physicians;
 - (I) Trauma nurses;
 - (J) On-call surgical personnel;
 - (K) Tennessee state guard; and
 - (L) United States coast guard auxiliary;
- (2) Judiciary:
 - (A) Supreme court;
 - (B) Court of appeals;
 - (C) Court of criminal appeals;
 - (D) Chancery court;
 - (E) Circuit court;

- (F) Probate court;
- (G) Juvenile court;
- (H) General sessions court;
- (I) Retired judges of courts, not-of-record;
- (J) Municipal court judges; and
- (K) Magistrates;
- (3) National Guard:
 - (A) Enlisted;
 - (B) Honorably discharged members;
 - (C) Officers; and
 - (D) Retirees;
- (4) Memorial:
 - (A) Air Force Cross recipient;
 - (B) Air Medal (Valor) recipients;
 - (C) Bronze Star (Valor) recipients;
 - (D) Disabled veteran;
 - (E) Distinguished Flying Cross recipients;
 - (F) Distinguished Service Cross recipient;
 - (G) Former prisoner of war;
 - (H) Gold star family;
 - (I) Holder of the Purple Heart;
 - (J) Medal of honor recipient;
 - (K) Navy Cross recipient; and
 - (L) Silver Star recipients;
- (5) Cultural:
 - (A) Arts, as provided for in § 55-4-218 and § 55-4-264;
 - (B) Collegiate, as defined in § 55-4-209:
 - (i)
 - (a) Bryan College;
 - (b) Section 55-4-201(f) shall not apply to subdivision (c)(5)(B)(i)(a);
 - (ii) Penn State University;
 - (iii) University of Arkansas;
 - (iv) University of Florida;
 - (v) University of Mississippi;
 - (vi) All collegiate plates issued as cultural motor vehicle registration plates prior to July 1, 1998; and
 - (vii) All collegiate plates administratively issued by the department on or after July 1, 1998, pursuant to § 55-4-210;
 - (C) Honorary consular;
 - (D) Metropolitan council;
 - (E) Military:
 - (i) Air Medal (Meritorious) recipients;
 - (ii) Blue star family;
 - (iii) Bronze Star (Meritorious) recipients;
 - (iv) Combat veterans;
 - (v) "Enemy Evadees" as certified by the department of veterans services;
 - (vi) [Deleted by 2014 amendment, effective May 19, 2014.]
 - (vii) Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces;
 - (viii) Marine Corps League;
 - (ix) Pearl Harbor survivors;
 - (x) [Deleted by 2014 amendment, effective May 19, 2014.]
 - (xi) Submarine veteran;
 - (xii) Tennessee woman veteran, pursuant to § 55-4-292;
 - (xiii) United States military, active forces, pursuant to § 55-4-244;
 - (xiv) United States military, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244;
 - (xv) United States military, retired forces, pursuant to § 55-4-244;
 - (xvi) United States reserve forces, pursuant to § 55-4-242;
 - (xvii) United States reserve forces, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244; and
 - (xviii) United States reserve forces, retired, pursuant to § 55-4-244;
 - (F) Personalized, pursuant to §§ 55-4-210 and 55-4-211;

- (G) Police Benevolent Association; and
- (H) [Deleted by 2014 amendment, effective May 19, 2014.]
- (6) Specialty earmarked:
 - (A) Agriculture;
 - (B) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority;
 - (C) Alpha Phi Alpha;
 - (D) CHILDREN FIRST!;
 - (E) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.;
 - (F) Ducks Unlimited;
 - (G) Environmental;
 - (H) Friends of Great Smoky Mountains;
 - (I) Helping school volunteer;
 - (J) Kappa Alpha Psi;
 - (K) Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (L) Non-game and endangered wildlife species or "Watchable Wildlife";
 - (M) Omega Psi Phi;
 - (N) Phi Beta Sigma;
 - (O) Supporters of Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital; and
 - (P) Zeta Phi Beta; and
- (7) New specialty earmarked plates, as defined in § 55-4-209:
 - (A) 2014 College World Series Champions -- Vanderbilt University [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (B) Alzheimer's Association [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (C) Animal Friendly;
 - (D) Appalachian Trail;
 - (E) Autism Awareness;
 - (F) BE NICE;
 - (G) Chambliss Center for Children [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (H) Choose Life;
 - (I) Civil War Preservation;
 - (J) Combat Action;
 - (K) [Deleted by 2016 amendment.]
 - (L) [Deleted by 2016 amendment.]
 - (M) Cystic Fibrosis Awareness [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (N) D.A.R.E.;
 - (O) Dollywood Foundation;
 - (P) Donate Life [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (Q) Down Syndrome Awareness;
 - (R) "Driving To A Cure" (Pink Ribbon);
 - (S) Eagle Foundation;
 - (T) East Tennessee Children's Hospital;
 - (U) Eastern Star;
 - (V) Fallen Linemen;
 - (W) Fallen Police and Firefighters;
 - (X) Fish and wildlife species;
 - (Y) Friends of Sycamore Shoals Historic Area, Inc.;
 - (Z) Germantown Charity Horse Show [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (AA) Historic Collierville;
 - (BB) Historic Franklin;
 - (CC) Historic Gallatin [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (DD) Historic Whitehaven;
 - (EE) I RECYCLE [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (FF) International Association of Firefighters;
 - (GG) Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park;
 - (HH) Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (II) Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center;
 - (JJ) Lung Cancer Alliance [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
 - (KK) Make-A-Wish Foundation;
 - (LL) Masons;
 - (MM) McCallie School [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];

(NN) Memphis Grizzlies;
(OO) Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum;
(PP) Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt;
(QQ) Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Inc. [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(RR) Music City Inc. Foundation [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(SS) Nashville Parks Foundation;
(TT) Nashville Predators;
(UU) National Rifle Association;
(VV) National Wild Turkey Federation;
(WW) Native American Indian Association [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(XX) Niswonger Children's Hospital;
(YY) Nurses;
(ZZ) Ohio State University;
(AAA) Pat Summitt Foundation;
(BBB) Prostate Cancer Awareness;
(CCC) Protecting Rivers and Clean Waters;
(DDD) Radnor Lake;
(EEE) Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED);
(FFF) Share the Road;
(GGG) Rotary International;
(HHH) Scenic and Historic Gallatin [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(III) Smallmouth bass;
(JJJ) Sons of Confederate Veterans;
(KKK) Soulsville, U.S.A. [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(LLL) Sportsman;
(MMM) Support Our Troops;
(NNN) Supporters of the Blind and Visually Impaired [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(OOO) Tennessee Association of Realtors;
(PPP) Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(QQQ) Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police;
(RRR) Tennessee School Nutrition Association;
(SSS) Tennessee Sheriffs' Association;
(TTT) Tennessee Tech University;
(UUU) Tennessee Titans;
(VVV) Tennessee Vietnam Veterans, Inc. [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(WWW) Tennessee Walking Horse;
(XXX) Tennessee Wildlife Federation;
(YYY) Tennessee Wildlife Federation non-game and education programs;
(ZZZ) The Fairgrounds Nashville;
(AAAA) Trout Unlimited;
(BBBB) University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers' NCAA National Championships;
(CCCC) University of Tennessee National Championship;
(DDDD) Vanderbilt University Athletic Department [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(EEEE) VFW;
(FFFF) Wingz of Love Foundation [Obsolete. See the Compiler's Notes.];
(GGGG) Youth Villages.

(d)

(1) No registration plate shall be issued under this section unless authorized by this part. Registration under this part is supplemental to the motor vehicle title and registration law, compiled in chapters 1-6 of this title, and nothing in this part shall be construed as abridging or amending that law. An applicant with more than one (1) motor vehicle titled or leased in that applicant's name, or applicants with more than one (1) motor vehicle jointly titled and/or leased in their names are entitled to an unlimited number of registration plates under the applicable provision of law, as long as all other special fees and regular costs are paid by the applicant and all requirements set out in parts 1 and 2 of this chapter are followed.

(2) No qualified person shall receive more than one (1) free plate, unless the issuance of additional free plates is specifically authorized by the statute creating the cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked plate, memorial plate or special purpose plate.

(e) Registration plates issued to United States judges, United States senators, and members of the United States house of representatives pursuant to subdivisions (a)(9) and (a)(16)-(18) shall be of a distinctive

design approved by the department and shall bear, as applicable, the district number of house members, the number "1" or "2" for senators, based on seniority, and the appropriate number for judges, based on seniority of appointment. Unless a conflict exists with other designs, the designs used before July 1, 1984, shall be used.

(f) Whenever a spouse having a cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked plate, memorial plate or special purpose plate is divorced and no longer entitled to the plate, the spouse no longer entitled to that plate shall deliver the plate to the county clerk, and the county clerk shall issue a regular plate valid for the same period as the cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked plate, memorial plate or special purpose plate.

(g)

(1) Registration plates issued to honorary consulars pursuant to subdivision (c)(5)(C) shall be of a distinctive design approved by the department and shall bear, as applicable, the words "Honorary Consul" and an appropriate number.

(2) The revised honorary consular plates issued pursuant to this section shall be delivered to qualified persons upon renewal of registration of the vehicle to which the plates are issued. No person with honorary consular plates shall be required to exchange the plates until the renewal of registration of the vehicle to which the plates are issued.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 2 --Special License Plates

Tenn. Code § 55-4-203 (2016)

55-4-203. Fees.

(a) In addition to title, registration, transfer or other fees or taxes otherwise applicable under this title, persons applying for and receiving registration plates under this part shall pay additional fees as follows:

(1) **Antique motor vehicle** -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), pursuant to § 55-4-111(a)(1) Class C and as provided for in § 55-4-111(b);

(2) Dealers, as provided for in § 55-4-221;

(3) Disabled -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle, except as expressly provided otherwise in § 55-21-103;

(4) Emergency:

(A) Amateur radio:

(i) Regular fee applicable to the vehicle, if the applicant meets the qualifications of § 55-4-229(e);
or

(ii) Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), if the applicant does not meet the qualifications of § 55-4-229(e);

(B) On-call surgical personnel -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-222(i);

(C) Police officer -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-222(f);

(D) Regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-222 for the following special purpose plates:

(i) Auxiliary police;

(ii) Civil air patrol;

(iii) Civil defense;

(iv) Emergency services squad, including, but not limited to, emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and

(v) Rescue squad;

(E) Tennessee state guard -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and a fee proportionately equal to the cost of actually designing and manufacturing the plates to ensure that the issuance of the plates is revenue neutral; provided, that the fee shall only be applicable upon initial issuance or re-issuance of the plates provided for in this section and shall not be applicable at the time of renewal;

(F) Trauma nurses -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-222(h);

(G) Trauma physicians -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-222(g);
and

(H) United States coast guard auxiliary -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and a fee proportionately equal to the cost of actually designing and manufacturing the plates to ensure that the issuance of the plates is revenue neutral; provided, that the fee shall only be applicable upon initial issuance or re-issuance of the plates provided for in this section and shall not be applicable at the time of renewal;

(5) Firefighter -- regular fee applicable to the vehicle and as provided for in § 55-4-241;

- (6)** General Assembly -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
- (7)** Government service -- as provided for in [§ 55-4-223](#);
- (8)** Judiciary -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
- (9)** National guard: enlisted, officers, retirees and honorably discharged members -- as provided for in [§ 55-4-228](#);
- (10)** Sheriff -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
- (11) Street red** -- fifty dollars (\$50.00) and as provided for in [§ 55-4-230](#);
- (12)** United States House of Representatives -- twenty- five dollars (\$25.00);
- (13)** United States Judge -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); and
- (14)** United States Senate -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(b) The following plates shall be issued free of charge and in the number specified by the section authorizing the issuance of the individual plate; provided, that the appropriate criteria are met by the applicant:

Memorial:

- (1)** Air Force Cross recipients;
- (2)** Disabled Veterans, including those disabled veterans who choose to receive the Purple Heart plate pursuant to [§ 55-4-239\(e\)](#);
- (3)** Distinguished Service Cross recipients;
- (4)** Former Prisoner of War;
- (5)** Medal of Honor recipients;
- (6)** Navy Cross recipients;
- (7)** Gold star family; and
- (8)** Holder of the Purple Heart.

(c) (1) The following military cultural plates shall be issued upon the payment of the regular registration fee and a fee equal to the cost of actually designing and manufacturing the plates; provided, that the issuance of these plates shall be revenue neutral:

- (A)** Bronze Star recipients;
- (B)** Combat veterans;
- (C)** "Enemy Evadees," as certified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to [§ 55-4-243](#);
- (D)** Handicapped veteran;
- (E)** Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, pursuant to [§ 55-4-253](#);
- (F)** Marine Corps League;
- (G)** Pearl Harbor survivors, pursuant to [§ 55-4-238](#);
- (H)** Silver Star recipients;
- (I)** Tennessee woman veteran, pursuant to [§ 55-4-292](#);
- (J)** United States military, active forces, pursuant to [§ 55-4-244](#);
- (K)** United States military, honorably discharged members, pursuant to [§ 55-4-244](#);

- (L)** United States military, retired, pursuant to [§ 55-4-244](#);
- (M)** United States reserve forces, honorably discharged members, pursuant to [§ 55-4-244](#);
- (N)** United States reserve forces, pursuant to [§ 55-4-242](#); and
- (O)** United States reserve forces, retired, pursuant to [§ 55-4-244](#).

(2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the payment of the fee equal to the cost of actually designing and manufacturing the plates provided in subdivision (c)(1) shall only be applicable upon initial issuance or re-issuance of the plates specified in subdivision (c)(1) and shall not be applicable at the time of renewal.

(d) All other cultural, specialty earmarked and new **specialty** earmarked **plates** authorized by this part shall be issued upon the payment of a fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), in addition to the regular registration fee, in accordance with [§ 55-4-201\(b\)\(2\)](#).

[Effective January 1, 2010. See the Compiler's Notes.]

(e) OEM headquarters company plates shall be issued free of charge as provided for in [§ 55-4-232](#).

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 4 Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles
Part 2 --Special License Plates

Tenn. Code § 55-4-211 (2016)

55-4-211. Personalized plates -- Fees.

(a) (1) In addition to the personalized plates authorized by § 55-4-210, an applicant may, through the payment of a personalization fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), in addition to the regular registration fee and the thirty-five-dollar (\$35.00) fee established by § 55-4-201(b)(2), obtain certain cultural, specialty earmarked and new specialty earmarked plates with a personalized combination of numbers, letters, positions or a combination of numbers, letters and positions.

(2) The personalization fee shall be paid by the applicant upon the issuance and renewal of any personalized plate.

(b)

(1) An applicant for the issuance of personalized motor vehicle registration plates or the personalization of cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked motor vehicle registration plates pursuant to subsection (a) or the renewal of those plates in a subsequent registration year shall file an application in the form and by the date as the department may require, indicating the numbers, letters, positions or combination, requested as a registration number.

(2) The registration number shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) numbers, letters, positions or combination of numbers, letters or positions for a passenger motor vehicle, truck of one-half or three-quarter-ton rating or recreational vehicle or trailer or semitrailer that is not required to be registered but that the owner desires to be registered pursuant to § 55-4-111(c)(3), or, if authorized, not less than three (3) nor more than six (6) numbers, letters, positions or combination of numbers, letters or positions for a motorcycle.

(3) Registration numbers issued pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with § 55-4-210(d) and (e).

(c) The following plates shall not be eligible for personalization pursuant to this section, but may be personalized if the statute authorizing such plate permits or requires the plates to be personalized in some form:

- (1) Dealer;
- (2) Emergency;
- (3) Firefighter, pursuant to § 55-4-241;
- (4) General assembly;
- (5) Government service;
- (6) Honorary consular;
- (7) Judiciary;
- (8) Memorial, as enumerated in § 55-4-202(c)(4) and defined in § 55-4-240;
- (9) Metropolitan council;
- (10) Military, as enumerated in § 55-4-202(c)(5)(E);
- (11) National guard;
- (12) OEM headquarters company;
- (13) Sheriff;
- (14) Street rod, as defined in § 55-4-230 [obsolete];
- (15) United States house of representatives;
- (16) United States judge; and
- (17) United States senate.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this title to the contrary, any person who fulfills the following conditions may continue to renew and be issued personalized plates that consist of two (2) letters, numbers, or a combination of letters and numbers:

(A) The person was the owner of a passenger motor vehicle which was registered with the department prior to July 1, 1984; and

(B) The person was issued a personalized motor vehicle registration plate which consisted of two (2) letters, numbers, or combination thereof prior to July 1, 1984.

(2) All other provisions of this title regarding registration and licensing of passenger motor vehicles shall apply to any registration plates issued in accordance with subdivision (d)(1). (d)(1).

Equipment Exemptions

From Tennessee Code:

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 9 Equipment--Lighting Regulations
Part 4 --Lighting Regulations

Tenn. Code § 55-9-402 (2016)

55-9-402. Lights required on motor vehicles -- Exceptions -- Regulations as to color, type and visibility distance.

(a) (1) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, road roller, road machinery or farm tractor shall be equipped with at least two (2) and not more than four (4) headlights, with at least one (1) on each side of the front of the motor vehicle. No nonemergency vehicle shall operate or install emergency flashing light systems, such as strobe, wig-wag, or other flashing lights within the headlight assembly or grill area of the vehicle; provided, however, that a school bus may operate a flashing, wig-wag lighting system within the headlight assembly of the vehicle when the vehicle's visual stop signs are actuated for receiving or discharging school children.

(2) Auxiliary road lighting lamps may be used, but not more than two (2) of the lamps shall be lighted at any one (1) time in addition to the two (2) required headlights.

(3) No spotlight or auxiliary lamp shall be so aimed upon approaching another vehicle that any part of the high intensity portion of the beam therefrom is directed beyond the left side of the motor vehicle upon which the spotlight or auxiliary lamp is mounted, nor more than one hundred feet (100') ahead of the motor vehicle.

(b)

(1) Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two (2) red tail lamps and two (2) red stoplights on the rear of the vehicle, and one (1) tail lamp and one (1) stoplight shall be on each side, except that passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1939, trucks manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1968, and motorcycles and motor-driven cycles shall have at least one (1) red tail lamp and one (1) red stoplight. No non-emergency vehicle shall operate or install emergency flashing light systems such as strobe, wig-wag, or other flashing lights in tail light lamp, stoplight area, or factory installed emergency flasher and backup light area; provided, however, that the foregoing prohibition shall not apply to the utilization of a continuously flashing light system. For the purposes of this part, "continuously flashing light system" means a brake light system in which the brake lamp pulses rapidly for no more than five (5) seconds when the brake is applied, and then converts to a continuous light as a normal brake lamp until the time that the brake is released.

(2) The stoplight shall be so arranged as to be actuated by the application of the service or foot brake and shall be capable of being seen and distinguished from a distance of one hundred feet (100') to the rear of a motor vehicle in normal daylight, but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light.

(3) The stoplight may be incorporated with the tail lamp.

(4) Motor vehicle tail light lamps may operate as following:

(A) A white backup light operates when the motor vehicle is in reverse;

(B) When the driver is in a panic stop condition going forward, the backup lamp pulses or flashes red; and

(C) Upon normal stops of the motor vehicle, there is no action by the backup light.

(c) Each lamp and stoplight required in this section shall be in good condition and operational.

(d) (1) (A) Except as provided in this section, no vehicle operated in this state shall be equipped with any flashing white or amber lights or any combination of white and amber lights that display to the front of the vehicle except a motor vehicle operated for purposes of an emergency equipment company pursuant to subsection (g); provided, that such white and amber lights are not flashing or illuminated while the vehicle is on a public road, whether in motion or stationary, or a passenger motor vehicle operated by an organ procurement organization or a person under an agreement with an organ procurement organization when transporting an organ for human transplantation.

(B) No vehicle operated in this state shall be equipped with any flashing red or white light or any combination of red or white lights that displays to the front of the vehicle except a motor vehicle operated for purposes of an emergency equipment company pursuant to subsection (g), school buses, a passenger

motor vehicle operated by a rural mail carrier of the United States postal service while performing the duties of a rural mail carrier, authorized law enforcement vehicles or motor vehicles operated for purposes of emergency equipment companies pursuant to subsection (g) only when used in combination with a flashing blue light, and emergency vehicles used in firefighting, including ambulances, emergency vehicles used in firefighting that are owned or operated by the division of forestry, firefighting vehicles, rescue vehicles, privately-owned vehicles of regular or volunteer firefighters certified in § 55-9-201(c), or other emergency vehicles used in firefighting owned, operated, or subsidized by the governing body of any county or municipality; provided, that lights authorized by this subdivision (d)(1)(B) for emergency equipment company vehicles shall not be operated or illuminated while the vehicle is on a public road, in motion or stationary.

(2) Any emergency rescue vehicle owned, titled and operated by a state chartered rescue squad, a member of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads, privately owned vehicles of regular or volunteer firefighters certified in § 55-9-201(c), and marked with lettering at least three inches (3") in size and displayed on the left and right sides of the vehicle designating it an "Emergency Rescue Vehicle," any authorized civil defense emergency vehicle displaying the appropriate civil defense agency markings of at least three inches (3"), any ambulance or vehicle equipped to provide emergency medical services properly licensed as required in the state and displaying the proper markings, and any motor vehicle operated for purposes of an emergency equipment company pursuant to subsection (g); provided, that lights authorized by this subdivision (d)(2) for such emergency equipment company vehicle shall not be operated or illuminated while the vehicle is on a public road, whether in motion or stationary, shall also be authorized to be lighted in one (1) or more of the following manners:

- (A) A red or red/white visibar type with public address system;
- (B) A red or red/white oscillating type light; and
- (C) Blinking red or red/white lights, front and rear.

(3) Any vehicle that displays any flashing white or amber lights or white and amber lights, flashing red or red/white lights, or red, white, and blue lights in combination, shall be considered in violation of this subsection (d), except for the following vehicles:

- (A) A highway maintenance or utility vehicle, a motor vehicle operated for purposes of an emergency equipment company pursuant to subsection (g), or a passenger motor vehicle operated by an organ procurement organization or a person under an agreement with an organ procurement organization when transporting an organ for human transplantation, authorized by this section to display flashing white or amber lights or white and amber lights;
- (B) A school bus, a motor vehicle operated for purposes of an emergency equipment company pursuant to subsection (g), a passenger motor vehicle operated by a rural mail carrier of the United States postal service while performing the duties of a rural mail carrier, or an emergency vehicle, authorized by this section to display flashing red or red/white lights; and
- (C) Authorized law enforcement vehicles or motor vehicles operated for purposes of emergency equipment companies pursuant to subsection (g), authorized by this section to display red, white, and blue lights in combination; provided, that emergency equipment company vehicles are not authorized to display or illuminate the lights authorized by this section while the vehicle is on a public road, whether in motion or stationary.

(e) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, nothing in this section shall prohibit a highway maintenance or utility vehicle, or any other type vehicle or equipment participating, in any fashion, with highway or utility construction, maintenance, or inspection, from operating a white, amber, or white and amber light system on any location on the vehicle or equipment while the vehicle or equipment is parked upon, entering or leaving any highway or utility construction, maintenance, repair or inspection site.

(B) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a recovery vehicle designed for towing a disabled vehicle, as defined in § 55-8-132, while in the performance of duties involved with towing an abandoned, immobile, disabled or unattended motor vehicle is authorized to display an amber light that is a strobe, flashing, oscillating or revolving system or any combination of white and amber lights. Such authorized light or lights may be displayed on any location on the vehicle or equipment, other than within the headlight assembly or grill area of the vehicle, in the tail light lamp or stoplight area, or factory installed emergency flasher and backup light area.

(2) As used in this subsection (e), "utility" means any person, municipality, county, metropolitan government, cooperative, board, commission, district, or any entity created or authorized by public act, private act, or general law to provide electricity, natural gas, water, waste water services, telephone service, or any combination thereof, for sale to consumers in any particular service area.

(3) As used in subdivision (e)(2), "cooperative" means any cooperative providing utility services including, but not limited to, electric or telephone services, or both.

(4) Nothing in this subsection (e) imposes any duty or obligation to install or utilize the lighting systems allowed in this section.

(f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, nothing in this section shall prohibit a motor vehicle used for the driver education and training course for Class D vehicles as provided by § 55-50-322(f) from operating an amber light-emitting diode (LED) light system on the front and rear of such vehicle other than in the taillight lamp, stoplight area, or factory-installed emergency flasher and backup light area. The amber light-emitting diode light system shall not be placed in the driver's line of sight. Nothing in this subsection (f) imposes any duty or obligation to install or utilize the lighting system allowed in this subsection (f).

(g)

(1) The prohibitions in subdivisions (a)(1) and (b)(1), and subsection (d) do not apply to any privately-owned motor vehicle that is primarily operated for business purposes by any salesperson, service representative, employee, lessee, or duly authorized agent of an emergency equipment company; provided, that the vehicle is marked with the lettering required by subdivision (g)(3).

(2) Any person operating a motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection (g) shall carry a copy of the company's business license or the person's or owner of the company's professional or occupational license, certification or registration issued by this state and appropriate identification issued by the owner of the company.

(3) Lettering shall be displayed on the left and right sides of the vehicle identifying the name of the company for which the vehicle is operated and on the front and rear of the vehicle designating it a "Demonstration Vehicle". The lettering shall be painted or affixed on, or attached to, the vehicle in a permanent manner, and shall be at least three inches (3") in size.

(4) Nothing in this subsection (g) imposes any duty or obligation on a manufacturer of motor vehicles used by or sold to emergency equipment companies to install, maintain or exhibit the lighting system allowed in this subsection (g) at the time of manufacture or sale.

(5) Nothing in this subsection (g) shall be construed to permit the operator of an emergency equipment company vehicle from operating any lighting equipment authorized by this subsection (g) while the vehicle is on a public road, whether in motion or stationary.

(6) As used in this section, "emergency equipment company" or "company" means any entity licensed as required by this state to sell or repair lighting equipment designed for use on motor vehicles that are operated for authorized law enforcement, emergency response, or other public safety activities.

(h) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Title 55 Motor and Other Vehicles
Chapter 9 Equipment--Lighting Regulations
Part 6 --Safety Belts

Tenn. Code § 55-9-601 (2016)

55-9-601. Required -- Specifications -- Violations -- Penalties.

(a) (1) It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, lease, trade or transfer from or to Tennessee residents, at retail, an **automobile** that is manufactured or **assembled** commencing with the 1964 models, unless the automobile is equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, lease, trade or transfer from or to Tennessee residents, at retail, a passenger motor **vehicle** that is manufactured or **assembled** commencing with the 1969 models, unless the passenger motor vehicle is equipped with safety belts installed for use in every designated seating position of the motor vehicle.

(b) All such safety belts shall be of a type and be installed in a manner approved by the department of safety. The department shall establish specifications and requirements of approved types of safety belts and attachments. The department shall accept, as approved, all seat belt installations and the belt and anchor meeting the specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

(c) As used in this section, unless specified otherwise, "passenger car" or "passenger motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of eight thousand five hundred pounds (8,500 lbs.) or less that is not used as a public or livery conveyance for passengers. "Passenger car" or "passenger motor vehicle" does not apply to motor vehicles that are not required by federal law to be equipped with safety belts.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(e) No court costs shall be imposed or assessed against anyone convicted of a violation of this section.

Emissions Exemptions

Annual emissions inspections must be passed prior to registration and registration renewal in the counties of Hamilton, Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson and in the city of Memphis.

Diesel Vehicles:

Diesel vehicles are treated the same as gasoline powered vehicles for emission inspection purposes.

Exemptions:

1. Pre-1975 MY vehicles
2. Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 10,500 lbs