

Lawmakers hear about motor vehicle usage tax legislation

CAPITAL UPDATE

FRANKFORT — Some legislators want to attract veterans and service members to Kentucky, and members of the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection learned about legislation Wednesday that could help those groups save money.

Rep. Peyton Griffiee, R-Mount Washington, told the committee that he is working on legislation to help draw veterans and service members to the commonwealth by exempting them from the motor vehicle usage tax.

“There’s a 6% tax on motor vehicle usage, and a lot of folks are paying this when they move from somewhere else into the commonwealth. They’re getting hit with this 6% tax,” he said.

Griffiee said the tax is burdening retirees who want to move back to Kentucky and soldiers who have a permanent change of station to Fort Knox or Fort Campbell.

He said he is studying the cost of his proposal but believes it would have low financial impact to the state.

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Matthew Deneen, R-Elizabethtown, said the bill isn’t new, and he’d like to see it win approval during the 2026 Regular Session, which begins in January.

“When I first came to Frankfort, this was one of the bills that I was trying to tackle at the time. Of course, it’s dealing with revenue and taxes and all of that. It has to begin in the House,” he said.

Griffiee, a reservist himself, said some veterans and service members have paid the tax twice – once in their previous state and once again when

they come to Kentucky. He said the legislation would produce good outcomes if passed, and he called it another tool to keep people who come here to serve.

“These are people that are trained. They are excellent, excellent folks that we want

to keep for economic development, add to our workforce,” he said. “So, this is an easy recruiting tool for our state.”

Griffiee also said he would like to extend the tax break for reservists and National Guardsmen in the legislation

and plans to work with those groups on the proposal.

Senate Minority Whip David Yates, D-Louisville, asked if there is a limit on how many vehicles could be affected by the legislation.

“If you wind up being kind of a part-time car dealer, where I guess you get six or so many you can run through, then you would avoid that at the clerk’s office,” he asked.

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Bid selected to be approved at the Shelby County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Late proposals, facsimiles, or telephone bids will not be considered.

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