

STATE	# OF PLATES	NOVELTY PLATE SHIELDS	LICENSE PLATE FRAMES	VISIBILITY (NUMBERS/LETTERS/ STATE NAME/STICKER)	ASSOCIATED FINES	STATUTE LANGUAGE	MISC.
Alabama	1	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$500 and 60-180 days driving prohibition	A logo may appear on the left side of the license plate. The license plate number area must be free of graphics that would obscure the readability of characters on the license plate. "Alabama" must clearly be visible and must appear at the top of the plate so that law enforcement can readily identify the state of issuance. Ala.Code 1975 § 32-6-64; and Ala. Admin. Code r. 810-5-1-.217	
Alaska	If 1 is issued - Rear. If 2 are issued - Front and Rear (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times		(b) Every registration plate issued under this chapter shall be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned, with the upper edge of the plate horizontal, at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground measuring from the bottom of the plate, and maintained in a location and condition so as to be clearly legible. However, when considered necessary to insure legibility, AS 28.10.171	
Arizona	If 1 is issued - Rear. If 2 are issued - Front and Rear (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Clearly legible & clearly visible	\$30. And if two violations in one year: \$100	"Arizona" at the top of the license plate shall not be obscured. A.R.S. § 28-2354	FAQ: "Can I still use a license plate frame?" Yes, but effective January 1, 2009, state law requires that "ARIZONA" (or "AZ" in the case of a small-size plate) at the top of Arizona license plates not be covered or otherwise obscured. Any license plate frame, holder or cover that prevents the license plate from being clearly legible, is in violation of the law. <a href="http://azdot.gov/mvd/faq/vehicle-services">http://azdot.gov/mvd/faq/vehicle-services</a>
Arkansas	If 1 is issued - Rear. If 2 are issued - Front and Rear (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Clearly legible		Placing any type of cover over a license plate which makes the license plate more difficult to read or which reduces the reflective properties of the license plate is prohibited. A.C.A. § 27-14-716	
California	If 1 is issued - Rear. If 2 are issued - Front and Rear (F&R). 1 for Motorcycle	No (see "Misc. column; see also "Statute Language" column, particularly bracketed comment)	Yes	Clearly Visible	\$250.00	The installation of a license plate security cover is not a violation of this subdivision if the device does not obstruct or impair the recognition of the license plate information, including, but not limited to, the issuing state, license plate number, and registration tabs, and the cover is limited to the area directly over the top of the registration tabs. No portion of a license plate security cover shall rest over the license plate number. A casing, shield, frame, border, product, or other device that obstructs or impairs the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by state or local law enforcement, an electronic device operated in connection with a toll road, high occupancy toll lane, toll bridge, or other toll facility, or a remote emission sensing device, shall not be installed on, or affixed to, a vehicle. [A person shall not sell a product or device that obscures, or is intended to obscure, the reading or recognition of a license plate by visual means. A person shall not erase the reflective coating of, paint over the reflective coating of, or alter a license plate to avoid visual or electronic capture of the license plate or its characters by state or local law enforcement.] Cal.Vehicle Code § 5200-5204	California Highway Patrol spokesman has been quoted as saying "you can't have any covering over your license plate numbers at all, even if it is transparent and clear...Whether it is clear or not...when any light is directed onto that clear cover, it actually obstructs the view of that license plate from toll lane cameras and officers...the law permits a smaller sheet of plastic, if clear and readily visible to cover tags, but it cannot cover the plate numbers at all." He also said "license plate frames may not block month and year tags." 2013 [Comment from counsel: the statutory language suggests that if the clear shield does not affect visibility or reflectivity, it would be legal, but law enforcement appears to be enforcing against any and all shields.] -
Colorado	2 (F&R)	Yes- must be clear	Yes	Clearly legible	\$100.00	A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with an affixed device or a substance that causes all or a portion of a license plate to be unreadable by a system used to automatically identify a motor vehicle. Such a device includes, without limitation, a cover that distorts angular visibility, alters the color of the plate; or is smoked, tinted, scratched, or dirty so as to impair the legibility of the license plate. The plate must be free from foreign materials. C.R.S.A. § 42-3-202	
Connecticut	2 (F&R) If one plate given: Rear	Yes	Yes	Unobscured	\$117: Failure to Display	Nothing may be affixed to plates that obscures or impairs the visibility of any information on plates. Numbers and letters must be plainly legible. C.G.S.A. § 14-18	
Delaware	1	Yes (but see "Statute Language" column, bracketed comment in particular)	Yes (but see "Statute" column, bracketed comment in particular)	Sufficient size to be plainly readable	First Time: \$50-\$1,000; If twice within three years: \$200-\$2000	No number plate shall have attached thereto any advertising matter, any fictitious numbers, signs, or symbols or any legend of any character not approved by the Department. No person shall use or exhibit in a manner or at a time not authorized by this chapter, or by the rules and regulations of the Department with respect thereto, any number of registration plates or accessory plates, or display or use any unauthorized device, symbol or legend on or attached to any such plates. (c) No number plate, or any portion thereof, shall be covered with any tinted material, nor shall any other material be placed on or around a number plate which would conceal and/or obscure any information contained thereon, including the registration expiration sticker. Plate frames that do not conceal and/or obscure any information contained on the plate, including the registration expiration sticker, are not prohibited by this section. Operation and/or use of a plate frame containing or including scrolling, strobe, and/or blinking lights around a license plate for any purpose, including but not limited to advertisement, to convey a message or communication is prohibited, except during a special organized event such as a parade or car show. [It] shall be unlawful to sell, offer to sell, transfer, possess or use any kind of device, product, plate cover, or object, including any image altering device or spray, for the purpose of hindering, inhibiting, impeding, impairing, or preventing the photographing, recording or imaging of a license plate in connection with the enforcement of this motor vehicle code or any local or municipal traffic laws. Any person convicted of a violation of this subsection shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,000. For each subsequent violation occurring within 3 years of the date of the original violation, the person shall be fined not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,000. It shall be unlawful to sell any license plate cover or frame which would violate subsection (c) of this section if placed on a Delaware license plate unless the seller posts a sign in close proximity to the product which states clearly and conspicuously to the public that it is illegal to place the license plate cover or frame on Delaware license plates. Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50 and not more than \$100 and shall pay restitution to the purchaser of the license plate cover or frame in the amount of 10 times the purchase price. 21 Del.C. § 2121-26	
District of Columbia	2 (F&R)	No (see "Statute Language" column)	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$500	Identification tags shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a clearly legible condition. For the purposes of this subsection, foreign materials shall include any non-transparent materials placed on or over the tag(s); any expired or any unauthorized decals or stickers; or any markings or attachments of any kind, except as permitted by § 422.6, 422.6. No sign or emblem more than twenty-four square inches (24 in.2) in area shall be attached to any license tag bracket nor shall any sign or emblem be so located as to obstruct from view any part of the identification tags. No person shall operate a vehicle where the identification tag's identifying numbers or letters are covered with glass, plastic, or any other type of material or substance. 18 DCMR § 422.5	
Florida	If 2: (F&R) If 1: Rear	Yes	Yes	Clear and Distinct	\$60	A person may not alter the original appearance of a vehicle registration certificate, license plate, temporary license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker issued for and assigned to a motor vehicle or mobile home, whether by mutilation, alteration, defacement, or change of color or in any other manner. A person may not apply or attach a substance, reflective matter, illuminated device, spray, coating, covering, or other material onto or around any license plate which interferes with the legibility, angular visibility, or detectability of any feature or detail on the license plate or interferes with the ability to record any feature or detail on the license plate. A person who violates this section commits a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided in chapter 318, Title 23, Chapter 320, (320.061) Unlawful to alter motor vehicle registration certificates, license plates, temporary license plates, mobile home stickers, or validation stickers or to obscure license plates; penalty.) <a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;Search_String&amp;URL=0300-0399/0320/Sections/0320.061.html">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;Search_String&amp;URL=0300-0399/0320/Sections/0320.061.html</a>	
Georgia	1	Yes- cannot impede readability of plate	Yes	Plainly Visible	Failure to Display: \$139; and penalty (see statute) \$0-\$1,000	No license plate shall be covered with any material unless the material is colorless and transparent. No apparatus that obstructs or hinders the clear display and legibility of a license plate shall be attached to the rear of any motor vehicle required to be registered in the state. Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any person who shall willfully mutilate, obliterate, deface, alter, change, or conceal any numeral, letter, character, county designation, or other marking of any license plate issued under the motor vehicle registration laws of this state; who shall knowingly operate a vehicle bearing a license plate on which any numeral, letter, character, county designation, or other marking has been willfully mutilated, obliterated, defaced, altered, changed, or concealed; or who shall knowingly operate a vehicle bearing a license plate issued for another vehicle and not properly transferred as provided by law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who willfully covers any license plate with plastic, other material, or any part of his or her body in order to prevent or impede the ability of surveillance equipment to clearly photograph or otherwise obtain a clear image of the license plate is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00. Ga. Code Ann., § 40-2-41; and Ga. Code Ann., § 40-2-6; and Ga. Code Ann., § 40-2-6.1	
Hawaii	2: 1 for motorcycle (rear)	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	Not more than \$50	Plates shall at all times be displayed entirely unobscured. HRS § 249-7	
Idaho	2 (F&R)	Yes	Yes	free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible	\$67 Fictitious Display: \$101	Every license plate shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned to prevent the plate from swinging, be at a height not less than twelve (12) inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate, be in a place and position to be clearly visible, and shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible, and all registration stickers shall be securely attached to the license plates and shall be displayed. I.C. § 49-428	

							A person may not operate any motor vehicle that is equipped with registration plate covers. A violation of this subsection (g) or a similar provision of a local ordinance is an offense against laws and ordinances regulating the movement of traffic. A person may not sell or offer for sale or advertise a registration plate cover. A violation of this subsection (h) is a business offense. A person may not operate on a toll highway any motor vehicle that is equipped with tinted plastic or tinted glass registration plate covers or any covers, coating, wrappings, materials, streaking, distorting, holographic, reflective, or other devices that obstruct the visibility or electronic image recording of the plate. 625 ILCS 5/3-413	
Illinois	2 (F&R) and 1 for Motorcycle	No (see "Statute Language" column)	Yes	Clearly Visible	\$750.00-\$1000			
Indiana	1	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	Up to \$500		"maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible." IC 9-18-1-4-4	Bureau of Motor Vehicles FAQ says that Indiana prohibits frames or covers that obscure stickers, text or numbers on license plate.
Iowa	2 (F&R) and 1 for Motorcycle (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Permit full view of all numerals & letters	Failure to Display, \$100.50		Unlawful to place frame over plate that does not permit full view of all numbers and letters on registration plate. I.C.A. § 321.37	
Kansas	1 Rear	No (see "Statute Language" column)	Yes	Clearly legible	Unlawful display, \$60		Plates shall be "free from foreign materials." Kansas law prohibits license plates from being covered by any clear, opaque, or other plastic material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity. K.S.A. 8-133	
Kentucky	1 Rear	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$250		No rim, frame, or other covering around the plate shall in any way obscure or cover any lettering or decal on the plate, except that, any owner who objects to the display of a trademark of a private corporation which appears on the registration plate shall be entitled to receive a set of decals from the county clerk in his county of residence to cover the trademark of the private corporation. KRS § 186.170	
Louisiana	1 Rear	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times			Plate shall be clearly visible and maintained free of foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. LSA-R.S. 32:53	According to Louisiana State Police press release: "While tinted, blurred, or mirrored plate covers are an obvious obscurement, clear plate covers can also scratch, become yellowed, or get cloudy over time reducing visibility. Moreover, the built in reflectivity of license plates can be significantly diminished by covers preventing a clear view of the tag information during dark conditions. Drivers are also required by state law to ensure that license plates are well illuminated through the use of properly functioning white license plate lights. - 2012"
Maine	2 (F&R); 1 for Motorcycle	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times			Registration plates including letters, numbers and words must always be plainly visible and legible. 29-A M.R.S.A. § 452(4)	
Maryland	2 but 1 for motorcycle	No, cannot even offer plate covers for sale or advertise them (see "Statute Language" column)	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$70		(a) "Registration plate cover" defined. -- In this section, "registration plate cover" means any tinted, colored, painted, marked, clear, illuminated object that is deceptively of the characters of (1) Covers any of the characters of a vehicle's registration plate; or (2) Distort a recorded image of any of the characters of a vehicle's registration plate recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system under § 21-202.1 of this article. (b) a person may not offer for sale a plate cover (c) a person may not advertise the sale of a plate cover (1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including registration plate covers as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible. MD Code, Transportation, § 13-411	
Massachusetts	2 (F&R); 1 for Motorcycle (Rear)	No (see "Statute Language" and "Misc." columns)	Yes	Displayed Conspicuously			Plates shall not be obscured in any manner by the installation of a device that obscures the numbers. On or after August 1, 1969, no reflectorized number plate issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and mounted on any motor vehicle or trailer shall be covered with any glass, plastic or similar material if such material reduces the legibility or substantially diminishes the reflective qualities of such plate. (2) Any such number plate covered with any glass, plastic or similar material which reduces the legibility or substantially diminishes the reflective qualities of such plate shall be deemed not to be maintained in good order, and in violation of the provision of said M.G.L. c. 90. (3) Nothing contained in 540 CMR 2.00 shall be construed to prohibit the use of any metal or other frame covering, the border of any such reflectorized number plate so long as such frame does not cover or obscure in any manner the register number or any other words, symbols or numbers lawfully imprinted on or affixed to such number plate. M.G.L.A. 90 § 6	Massachusetts DoT press release indicates that clear shields are illegal -2014 [Comment from counsel: the statutory language suggests that if the clear shield does not affect visibility or reflectivity, it would be legal, but law enforcement may be enforcing against any and all shields.]
Michigan	1 Rear	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible		"A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction."	A person shall not attach a name plate, insignia, or advertising device to a registration plate in a manner that obscures or partially obscures the registration information. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle that has a name plate, insignia, or advertising device attached to a registration plate in a manner that obscures or partially obscures the registration information. Plates shall be free from foreign materials. M.C.L.A. 257.224	FAQ: You may equip your vehicle with a license plate frame. michigan.gov/msp/
Minnesota	2 but 1 for motorcycle (rear)	No (see "Statute Language" and "Misc." columns)	Yes	Plainly Visible			Illegal to cover plate with clear or colorless material that affects plate visibility or reflectivity. View of plate must not be obstructed. M.S.A. § 169.79 Subd. 7	Ask a Trooper FAQ indicates that clear shields are illegal [Comment from counsel: the statutory language suggests that if the clear shield does not affect visibility or reflectivity, it would be legal, but law enforcement may be enforcing against any and all shields.]
Mississippi	1	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$25.00		Such license plate, all characters and any legally affixed decals shall not be defaced, covered or obstructed from view by any object, decal, sticker, paint, marking or license plate bracket or holder. Any person who defaces, covers or obstructs any portion of a license tag with any sticker, decoration, paint, marking, license plate bracket or holder or any other thing or device, in such a manner that the characters and any legally affixed decals on the tag cannot be read, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). However, it shall not be unlawful for the county name to be partially or completely obstructed from view by any object, decal, sticker or license plate bracket or holder. Miss. Code Ann. § 27-19-31	
Missouri	2	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible	Failure to Display, \$93		Transparent covers are permissible so long as plate is plainly visible and reflective qualities are not impaired. V.A.M.S. 301.130	
Montana	2 (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Obviously Visible			Montana and distinctive border of outline of state must be visible; Montana renews plate design every 5 years. MCA 61-3-332	
Nebraska	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times			All letters, numbers, printing, writing, and other identification marks upon such plates and certificate shall be kept clear and distinct and free from grease, dust, or other blurring matter, so that they shall be plainly visible at all times during daylight and under artificial light in the nighttime. Neb.Rev.St. § 60-399	1 plate for cars that don't have front bracket
Nevada	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Readable from 100 ft.			Displayed free of foreign material and clearly visible and legible. N.R.S. 482.275	
New Hampshire	2 (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Displayed Conspicuously	3 Points		Displayed plates shall be clean and contain state motto and not be obscured N.H.R.S § 261:75	
New Jersey	2 (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times	Not exceed \$500		A person shall not sell, offer for sale, distribute, transfer, purchase, receive, or possess any merchandise, including but not limited to retractable license plate holders, reflective spray, or anti-photograph license plate covers, knowing that such merchandise is designed or intended to be used to conceal or degrade the legibility of any part of any marking imprinted upon a vehicle's license plate for the purpose of evading law enforcement. N.J.S.A. 39-3-33c	
New Mexico	1 Rear	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible	Minor misdemeanor		Nothing prohibits use of a promotional or advertising plate on the front of the vehicle. Plate must be free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. N. M. S. A. 1978, § 66-3-18	
New York	2 but one for motorcycle	No (see "Statute Language" column) [comment from counsel: if shields do not distort images, sales would be permitted]	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$25-\$200		Number plates shall be kept clean and in a condition so as to be easily readable and shall not be covered by glass or any plastic material, and shall not be knowingly covered or coated with any artificial or synthetic material or substance that conceals or obscures such number plates or that distorts a recorded or photographic image of such number plates, and the view of such number plates shall not be obstructed by any part of the vehicle or by anything carried thereon. [(It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, association, limited liability company or corporation to sell, offer for sale or distribute any artificial or synthetic material or substance for the purpose of application to a number plate that will, upon application to a number plate, distort a recorded or photographic image of such number plate)] Title IV, Registration of Vehicles, Article 14, Section 402: § 402. Distinctive number; form of number plates; trailers	
North Carolina	1 Rear	Yes	Yes	Plainly readable from 100 ft.	\$100		Any operator of a motor vehicle who covers any registration plate with any frame or transparent, clear, or color-tinted cover that makes a number or letter included in the vehicle's registration, the State name on the plate, or a number or month on the registration renewal sticker on the plate illegible commits an infraction and shall be penalized under G.S. 14-3-1. N.C.G.S.A. § 20-63	
North Dakota	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible			Plates must be clearly visible and mounted in a manner that does not cover any words, letters or numbers on the plate. NDCC, 39-04-11	
Ohio	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes		Minor misdemeanor; fine up to \$100		Plate shall not be covered by any material that obstructs visibility. R.C. § 4503.21	
Oklahoma	1	No (see "Statute Language" column)	No (see "Statute Language" column)	Clearly visible			The license plate shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle, except truck-tractor plates which shall be attached to the front of the vehicle. The Tax Commission may, with the concurrence of the Department of Public Safety, by Joint Rule, change and direct the manner, place and location of display of any vehicle license plate when such action is deemed in the public interest. The license plate, decal and all letters and numbers shall be clearly visible at all times. The operation of a vehicle in this state, regardless of where such vehicle is registered, upon which the license plate is covered, overlaid or otherwise screened with any material, whether such material be clear, translucent, tinted or opaque, shall be a violation of this paragraph. 47 Okl.St. Ann. § 1101	

Oregon	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	No (see "Misc." column)	Yes	Plain view to be easily read	Class D Traffic Violation	Frame may not obscure numbers, letters or registration stickers so as to render them unreadable. (1) A person commits the offense of illegal alteration or illegal display of a registration plate if the person knowingly does any of the following: (a) illegally alters a registration plate in a manner described in subsection (2) of this section or (b) causes a registration plate to be illegally displayed as described in subsection (3) of this section. (2) A registration plate is illegally altered for purposes of this section if the plate has been altered, modified, covered or obscured in any manner including, but not limited to, the following: (b) Any material or covering, other than a frame or plate holder, placed on, over or in front of the plate that alters the appearance of the plate. (c) Any frame or plate holder that obscures the numbers, letters or registration stickers, so as to render them unreadable. O.R.S. § 803.550	Oregon interpretation of the statute: "Any material or covering, other than a frame or plate holder, placed on, over or in front of the plate that alters the appearance of the plate" is illegal. "Tinted and non-tinted plate covers can alter the appearance of or the reflectivity of the plate and make it unreadable or reduce the reflectivity for safety purposes."
Pennsylvania	1 Rear	*No tinted covers, see comments	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$100.00	Obscuring plate.—It is unlawful to display on any vehicle a registration plate which: (1) is so dirty as to prevent the reading of the number or letters thereon at a reasonable distance; (2) is obscured in any manner which inhibits the proper operation of an automated red light enforcement system in place pursuant to section 3116 (relating to automated red light enforcement systems in first class cities) or 3117 (relating to automated red light enforcement systems in certain municipalities); or (3) is otherwise illegible at a reasonable distance or is obscured in any manner. 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 1332	FAQ: Q: When I install my new plate, is it okay to put one of those plate frames around it or one of those plastic covers over it? A: Plastic coverings, however, significantly interfere with the plates' reflectivity, actually detract from their readability and impede law enforcement's ability to identify vehicles. License plates, especially our new ones, are designed to be durable and do not need any special protection. Also, please be advised that section 1332(b) of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code prohibits a plate from being displayed in any manner where the information listed thereon is obscured. This provision not only requires vehicle owners to keep their plate clear of excessive dirt and debris but also prohibits the use of protective coverings or plate holders/frames that fully or partially cover up registration stickers or other information on the plate. The use of these items may result in the registrant being subject to fines and penalties under Pennsylvania law. THIS PROHIBITION IS NOT SOMETHING NEW THAT HAS OCCURRED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW LICENSE PLATE. Similar language has appeared in Pennsylvania's vehicle code since at least 1929. While law enforcement will continue to use its discretion and best judgment in enforcing this law, as it has for many years, if you have not already done so, we encourage you to use the installation of your new plate as an opportunity to remove any covering or frame that blocks information on your plate. You may use frames/coverings on any optional/decorative plates that you choose to put on the front of your vehicle. News article quoting state police spokesman: tinted license plate covers are illegal in Pennsylvania because they obscure the plate. *They might not obscure the plate by much in some cases, depending on the level of tint, but by law plates cannot be obscured in any way. Even clear plate covers can steer their way to illegality, including by becoming so yellowed or cloudy with age (much like plastic headlight covers) that they obscure the plate."
Puerto Rico	2 (F&R)	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible	\$50.00 to \$5,000	"Unlawful to drive a motor vehicle with an altered identification license plate that has been covered or is not clearly visible." 9 L.P.R.A. § 5044	
Rhode Island	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Plainly readable from 100 ft.	\$85.00	Every registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which it is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging at a height of not less than twelve inches (12") from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate; in a place and position to be clearly visible and shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. Gen.Laws 1956, § 31-3-18	
South Carolina	1 Rear	No tinted covers; see "Statute Language" column	Yes	Must be visible at all times	\$0-\$100	No other license plate, lighting equipment, except as permitted in Section 56-5-4530, tag, sign, monogram, tinted cover, or inscription of metal or other material may be displayed above, or upon the plate other than that which is authorized and issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of validating the plate. It is not unlawful to place a decal or a frame on the license plate if it does not obscure any letters or numbers. Free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. Code 1976 § 56-3-1240	
South Dakota	2	Yes	Yes	Clearly visible	Class 2 misdemeanor	Except as otherwise specifically provided, no person may operate or drive a motor vehicle on the public highways of this state unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to it by the department, and two number plates, bearing the number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened. The plates shall at all times, as far as is reasonably possible, be kept clear and free of mud, ice, or snow so as to be clearly visible. All number plates, markers, or stamps evidencing registration or licensing of any vehicle in this or any foreign state, territory, district, or possession and any plate, marker, or stamp used in substitution for or in lieu of the number plates required by this section by virtue of any law or executive order for any prior year or years shall be removed from such vehicles. A motorcycle is only required to display one number plate. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor. SDCL § 32-5-98	
Tennessee	1 Rear	No tinted covers; see "Statute Language" column	Yes	Clearly Visible	\$10-\$20.00	No tinted materials may be placed over a license plate even if the information upon the license plate is not concealed. Plate must be free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. T. C. A. § 55-4-110	
Texas	2	Yes "not reflective and cannot blur the Plate"	Yes	Clearly Visible	Class B misdemeanor; \$0.00- \$200.00	License plate covering cannot alter or obscure letters or numbers of the license plate number or the color of the plate. No reflective matter or blurring of the Plate. Plate must be free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. § 504.945. Wrong, Fictitious, Altered, or Obscured License Plate	
Utah	1 (R) but if vehicle detained for violation of Title 41 then 1(F) on vehicle	Yes	Yes	Clearly Visible		License plate must be free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible; (1) License plates and the required letters and numerals on them, except the decals and the slogan, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight. U.C.A. 1953 § 41-1a-404	
Vermont	2 (F&R)	No tinted covers; see "Misc." column	Yes	Plainly Legible		The number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. 23 V.S.A. § 511	Advisory indicates that smoked or tinted plate covers can result in a ticket.
Virginia	2 (F&R) but if Motorcycle 1 (Rear)	Yes	Yes	Clearly visible and legible		No colored glass, colored plastic, bracket, holder, mounting, frame, or any other type of covering shall be placed, mounted, or installed on, around, or over any license plate if such glass, plastic, bracket, holder, mounting, frame, or other type of covering in any way alters or obscures (i) the alpha-numeric information, (ii) the color of the license plate, (iii) the name or abbreviated name of the state wherein the vehicle is registered, or (iv) any character or characters, decal, stamp, or other device indicating the month or year in which the vehicle's registration expires. No insignia, emblems, or trailer hitches or couplings shall be mounted in such a way as to hide or obscure any portion of the license plate or render any portion of the license plate illegible. VA Code Ann. § 46.2-715; and VA Code Ann. § 46.2-716	
Washington	2 but 1 for motorcycle	Yes	Yes	Must be visible at all times		Rear plate must be illuminated with white light visible 50' from rear of vehicle; frames may be used only if they do not obscure license tabs or identifying letters/numbers on plates and plates can be plainly seen and read at all times. Pursuant to Title 49 C.F.R. Part 571.108, the addition of an aftermarket style ornament or other feature such as tinted plastic glass covers, a grille or allotted covers must not be placed in front of the headlamp lens, or in front of any other lighting devices installed on motor vehicles which impair the effectiveness of lighting equipment required under 49 C.F.R. It is unlawful to use holders, frames, or other materials that change, alter, or make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may be used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license plates can be plainly seen and read at all times. West's RCWA 46.16A.200	Are license plate covers permitted? It is unlawful to use any holders, frames, or any materials that in any manner change, alter, or make the vehicle license number plates illegible. (RCW 46.16A.200) Tinted and non-tinted covers can alter the appearance of or the reflectivity of the plate and make it unreadable or reduce the reflectivity. [Comment from counsel: Note that the FAQ does not necessarily mean that all covers are automatically illegal, but it does indicate that any cover that alters appearance or reflectivity would be illegal. It is not clear if law enforcement respects this distinction.]
West Virginia	1	Yes	Yes	Clearly Legible		Every registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which it is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging and at a height of not less than twelve inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate, in a place and position to be clearly visible and shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. W. Va. Code, § 17A-3-15	
Wisconsin	2	Yes	Yes	Clearly legible	\$0-\$200	Registration plates shall be attached firmly and rigidly in a horizontal position and conspicuous place. The plates shall at all times be maintained in a legible condition and shall be so displayed that they can be readily and distinctly seen and read. Any peace officer may require the operator of any vehicle on which plates are not properly displayed to display such plates as required by this section. W.S.A. 341.15	
Wyoming	2	Yes	Yes	Clearly legible		Conspicuously displayed and securely fastened to be plainly visible; Maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible. W.S.1977 § 31-2-205	