

## U.S. State License Plate Display Laws - 2020

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# Alabama

## Ala. Admin. Code r. 810-5-1-.217 License Plate Design Specifications

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- (1)** The license plate must clearly identify the purpose of the license plate. A logo may appear on the left side of the license plate.
- (2)** The license plate number area must be free of graphics that would obscure the readability of the characters on the license plate.
- (3)** License plate designs for Quantity Class 2 plates under [Section 32-6-64, Code of Ala. 1975](#), must provide room for at least six (6) alphanumeric characters.
- (4)** "Alabama" must clearly be visible and must appear at the top of the license plate so that law enforcement can readily identify the state of issuance. "Alabama" must appear in font URW Basker Twid. The font size must be at least 80 points. This will permit law enforcement to readily identify the state of issuance.
- (5)** Decal boxes, if required, must appear in the top corners of the license plate in order to permit law enforcement to readily determine that ad valorem tax and current registration fees have been paid.
- (6)** Except as exempt by statute, license plates shall be imprinted with a conventionalized representation of a heart and the words "Heart of Dixie".

## Ala. Code 1975 § 32-6-64. Design — Distinctive license plates — Duties of Department of Corrections.

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**(a)**

**(1)** The design of license plates, including all emblems, slogans, symbols, or characters appearing on the plates, shall be by rule as promulgated by the Commissioner of Revenue, and as otherwise specified by law. The face of the license plate to be displayed shall be fully treated with a reflective material which will increase the nighttime visibility and legibility of the plate.

**(2)** Characters on the license plate which designate the county of issuance shall be numeric, and all numerals on the license plates shall be no smaller than two and three-fourths inches in height. The following numbering scheme shall be used:

**a.** Jefferson County, 1; Mobile County, 2; Montgomery County, 3.

**b.** All other counties shall be ranked alphabetically and assigned consecutive numbers beginning with 4 and concluding with 67.

**c.** The Department of Revenue shall be responsible for the numbering of distinctive license plates and shall establish a system to minimize duplication of license plate numbers. License plates that shall be approved for manufacture under subsection (b) shall be numbered or personalized.

**(b)** The sponsoring organization of any new or reissued distinctive license plate that is not of a college or university or a military category shall assure a minimum quantity of 250 registrations in order for the proposed plate to qualify for production consideration by the legislative oversight committee under the provisions of [Section 32-6-67](#).

**(1)** The procedure to assure the quantity minimum for a distinctive license plate shall be as follows:

**a.** The sponsoring organization shall apply to the Department of Revenue for approval for the proposed distinctive license plate from the legislative oversight committee. At the time of application, the sponsoring organization shall submit a design for the plate or logo for the quantity class being applied for as described below:

**1.** Quantity Class 1 (250 to 999 registrations). A new distinctive license plate category, or an existing distinctive license plate to be reissued, in which registrations are estimated to be at least 250, but less than 1,000, shall be in conformity with the design approved by the legislative oversight committee for license plates in this quantity class. This plate shall include a space designated on the left side of the license plate, not exceeding two and one-half inches in width and height, in which an appropriate emblem, slogan, or logo design may be applied to represent the organization for whom the distinctive license plate is issued. Each proposed emblem, slogan, symbol, or logo shall be subject to the approval of the legislative oversight committee.

**2.** Quantity Class 2 (1,000 or greater registrations). This quantity class may use the logo system described for Quantity Class 1, or may use a unique design for the entire plate which is approved by the legislative oversight committee and meets all other design and manufacture requirements of Alabama law.

**b.** After the legislative oversight committee approval and notification to the Department of Revenue, the department shall also coordinate with the Comptroller to establish funding procedures for deposit and maintaining monies held pending issuance of the new category of license plates.

**c.** Each person desiring to register a vehicle in the new category shall make application and shall remit, as a commitment to purchase, the additional fee associated with the license plate category in a manner as prescribed by rule of the Commissioner of Revenue. Any credit card processing fee associated with the transaction shall be paid by the person making the commitment to purchase the distinctive license plate and shall be nonrefundable.

**d.** The Department of Revenue shall deduct from the additional fee and retain a two and one-half percent commission. The balance shall be forwarded to the Comptroller to be retained in escrow, until such time as the revenue received is equal to or greater than the minimum amount required to issue license plates in that category. If, after one year from the date of notification of approval by the legislative oversight committee, the number of subscribers for a category fails to reach 250 for Quantity Class 1, or fails to reach 1,000 for Quantity Class 2, the Comptroller shall pay the money in escrow to the sponsoring organization and no further consideration for production of this proposed distinctive plate shall be made under this application. In addition, the sponsoring organization may not submit another application for a distinctive license plate for a period of one year from the date the commitment to purchase period ended.

**e.** Upon determination by the Department of Revenue that a sufficient number of applications for a plate category has been received, the department shall initiate the ordering processes for design and manufacture of the approved license plate. At that time, the Comptroller shall pay out of the escrow account the amounts referred to in [Section 32-6-68](#).

**(2)** Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, except where specifically provided by this subsection, no series of distinctive license plates shall be reissued unless the following requirements are met:

**a.** For Quantity Class 1 distinctive license plates, there shall have been issued in the prior license year a minimum of 250 license plates.

**b.** For Quantity Class 2 distinctive license plates, there shall have been issued in the prior license year a minimum of 1,000 license plates.

**(3)** The use of distinctive license plate categories shall be limited to use on passenger cars, pick-up trucks, and self-propelled campers or house cars.

**(c)**

**(1)** The Department of Corrections is directed to supply all license plates and revalidation devices required under this subdivision. The amounts charged by the Department of Corrections for the manufacture of revalidation devices shall not be less than that charged for the manufacture of license plates on a per item basis.

**(2)** The Department of Corrections shall maintain an accurate system of record-keeping which shall trace and account for the handling and distribution of each plate and revalidation device throughout the manufacturing process until the items are distributed to each county.

**(d)** After the five-year license plate has been in use for a period of three years the Department of Corrections may manufacture all subsequent license plates for the remaining two years of the period from a metal of less durability and quality than the metal used in manufacturing the five-year license plates.

**(e)**

**(1)** The department shall provide the owner or owners of a motor vehicle who register a license plate provided in this subsection the ability to opt-in to authorize the release of certain personal information or to opt-out to restrict the release of certain personal information by the department to the sponsoring organization, college, or university. The license plates that shall be subject to the opt-in and opt-out provisions are as follows:

**a.** A distinctive license plate issued pursuant to this section.

**b.** A collegiate or university distinctive license plate issued pursuant to [Section 32-6-150](#).

**c.** Other distinctive license plates as authorized by the Legislative Oversight Committee.

**(2)** Each owner of the motor vehicle may designate his or her consent through the opt-in authorization to release certain personal information included within a motor vehicle registration record to the sponsoring organization, college, or university. The opt-in authorization shall be made at the time of initial registration through the licensing official for a license plate as specified in subdivision (1). Subsequent opt-in authorizations shall be made directly to the department. As used in this subsection, the term personal information includes only the following information:

**a.** Owner name.

**b.** Owner address.

**c.** Owner email address, if applicable.

**(3)** Each owner of the motor vehicle may restrict the release of personal information included within a motor vehicle registration record for a license plate as specified in subdivision (1) to the sponsoring organization, college, or university by selecting to opt-out. The opt-out selection shall be made directly to the department.

**(4)** The subsequent opt-in authorization provided in subdivision (2) and opt-out selection provided in subdivision (3) shall be made in a manner as prescribed by the department.

**(5)** The sponsoring organization of the distinctive license plate or each college or university for which a distinctive license plate has been issued can make an annual request to the Department for the listing of the owner authorized opt-in disclosures. The sponsoring organization in receipt of the listing shall be prohibited from the resale or disclosure of the information to third parties without written consent from the owner to whom the information pertains.

# Alaska

## Alaska Stat. Sec. 28.10.171. Display of registration plates.

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**(a)** When two registration plates are issued for a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which issued, one in front and the other in the rear. When one registration plate is issued, it shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle for which issued.

**(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, the commissioner may provide by regulation for another method of installation.

# Arizona

## A.R.S. § 28-2354. License plates; attachment; civil penalty

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**A.** A person shall display the license plate or plates as follows:

1. For a motor vehicle, motorcycle, trailer or semitrailer, on the rear.
2. Except as provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection, for a vehicle for which two license plates are issued, the vehicle owner shall display either of the following:

**(a)** One plate on the rear.

**(b)** One plate on the front and one plate on the rear.

3. For a vehicle for which two special license plates are issued pursuant to [section 28-2409](#), one plate on the rear of the vehicle and one plate on the operator's wheelchair carrier or wheelchair lift when it is attached to the vehicle.

**B.** A person shall display all license plates as required by subsection A of this section until their lawful use expires or is canceled or revoked. A person shall maintain each license plate so it is clearly legible. A person shall securely fasten each license plate to the vehicle as follows:

1. To prevent the plate from swinging.
2. At a height of at least twelve inches from the ground to the bottom of the plate.
3. In a position to be clearly visible.

**C.** A person shall maintain each license plate so that the name of this state at the top of the license plate is not obscured.

**D.** Unless authorized by the department, a person shall not apply a covering or any substance to the license plate or use an electronic device or electrochromatic film that obscures from any angle the numbers, characters, year validating tabs or name of the jurisdiction issuing the plate.

**E.** A peace officer shall not stop or issue a citation to a person operating a motor vehicle on a highway in this state for a violation of subsection C of this section unless the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe there is another alleged violation of a motor vehicle law of this state.

**F.** If a person violates subsection C of this section, the person is subject to a civil penalty of thirty dollars, except that if a person violates subsection C of this section within twelve months after the date of a prior violation of subsection C of this section, the person is subject to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

# Arkansas

## A.C.A. § 27-14-716. Display of license plates generally.

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**(a)**

**(1)** License plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle shall be attached thereto, one (1) in the front and the other in the rear.

**(2)**

**(A)** When one (1) plate is issued, it shall be attached to the rear.

**(B)** License plates for trucks of one-ton capacity or larger may be displayed either on the front or rear of the vehicle.

**(C)** The license plate issued for a motorcycle required to be registered under this chapter shall be attached to the rear thereof.

**(b)** Every license 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 (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.

**(c)** 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.

# California

## Cal. Veh. Code § 5200. Placement when one or two license plates are issued

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**(a)** When two license plates are issued by the department for use upon a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which they were issued, one in the front and the other in the rear.

**(b)** When only one license plate is issued for use upon a vehicle, it shall be attached to the rear thereof, unless the license plate is issued for use upon a truck tractor, in which case the license plate shall be displayed in accordance with [Section 4850.5](#).

## Cal. Veh. Code § 5201. Positioning of plates

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**(a)** License plates, including temporary license plates, shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle for which they are issued so as to prevent the plates from swinging, shall be mounted in a position so as to be clearly visible, and so that the characters are upright and display from left to right, and shall be maintained in a condition so as to be clearly legible. The rear license plate shall be mounted not less than 12 inches nor more than 60 inches from the ground, and the front license plate shall be mounted not more than 60 inches from the ground, except as follows:

**(1)** The rear license plate on a tow truck or reposessor's tow vehicle may be mounted on the left-hand side of the mast assembly at the rear of the cab of the vehicle, not less than 12 inches nor more than 90 inches from the ground.

**(2)** The rear license plate on a tank vehicle hauling hazardous waste, as defined in [Section 25117 of the Health and Safety Code](#), or asphalt material may be mounted not less than 12 inches nor more than 90 inches from the ground.

**(3)** The rear license plate on a truck tractor may be mounted at the rear of the cab of the vehicle, but not less than 12 inches nor more than 90 inches from the ground.

**(4)** The rear license plate of a vehicle designed by the manufacturer for the collection and transportation of garbage, rubbish, or refuse that is used regularly for the collection and transportation of that material by a person or governmental entity employed to collect, transport, and dispose of garbage, rubbish, or refuse may be mounted not less than 12 inches nor more than 90 inches from the ground.

**(5)** The rear license plate on a two-axle livestock trailer may be mounted 12 inches or more, but not more than 90 inches, from the ground.

**(6)**

**(A)** The rear license plate on a dump bed motortruck equipped with a trailing, load bearing swing axle shall be mounted more than 12 inches, but not more than 107 inches, from the ground.

**(B)** As used in this section, a trailing, load bearing swing axle is an axle which can be moved from a raised position to a position behind the vehicle that allows for the transfer of a portion of the weight of the vehicle and load to the trailing axle.

**(b)** Temporary license plates shall be replaced with permanent license plates upon receipt of the permanent license plates, and the temporary license plates shall be destroyed at that time.

**(c)** A covering shall not be used on license plates except as follows:

**(1)** The installation of a cover over a lawfully parked vehicle to protect it from the weather and the elements does not constitute a violation of this subdivision. A peace officer or other regularly salaried employee of a public agency designated to enforce laws, including local ordinances, relating to the parking of vehicles may temporarily remove so much of the cover as is necessary to inspect any license plate, tab, or indicia of registration on a vehicle.

**(2)** 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.

**(d)** 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, as specified in [Sections 44081 and 44081.6 of the Health and Safety Code](#), shall not be installed on, or affixed to, a vehicle.

**(e)**

**(1)** It is the intent of the Legislature that an accommodation be made to persons with disabilities and to those persons who regularly transport persons with disabilities, to allow the removal and relocation of wheelchair lifts and wheelchair carriers without the necessity of removing and reattaching the vehicle's rear license plate. Therefore, it is not a violation of this section if the reading or recognition of a rear license plate is obstructed or impaired by a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier and all of the following requirements are met:



**(A)** The owner of the vehicle has been issued a special identification license plate pursuant to [Section 5007](#), or the person using the wheelchair that is carried on the vehicle has been issued a distinguishing placard under [Section 22511.55](#).

**(B)**

**(i)** The operator of the vehicle displays a decal, designed and issued by the department, that contains the license plate number assigned to the vehicle transporting the wheelchair.

**(ii)** The decal is displayed on the rear window of the vehicle, in a location determined by the department, in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, so as to be clearly visible to law enforcement.

**(2)** Notwithstanding any other law, if a decal is displayed pursuant to this subdivision, the requirements of this code that require the illumination of the license plate and the license plate number do not apply.

**(3)** The department shall adopt regulations governing the procedures for accepting and approving applications for decals, and issuing decals, authorized by this subdivision.

**(4)** This subdivision does not apply to a front license plate.

**(f)** This section shall become operative January 1, 2019.

## Cal. Veh. Code § 5201.1. Sale of product or device that obscures reading or recognition of a license plate prohibited; Operation of vehicle; Avoidance of visual or electronic capture of license plate or characters; Violation; Punishment

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**(a)** 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, or by an electronic device as prohibited by subdivision (c) of [Section 5201](#).

**(b)** A person shall not operate a vehicle with a product or device that violates subdivision (a).

**(c)** 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.

**(d)** A conviction for a violation of this section is punishable by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per item sold or per violation.

## Cal. Veh. Code § 5202. Period of display

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**(a)** A license plate issued by this state or any other jurisdiction within or without the United States shall be attached upon receipt and remain attached during the period of its validity to the vehicle for which it is issued while being operated within this state or during the time the vehicle is being held for sale in this state, or until the time that a vehicle with special or identification plates is no longer entitled to those plates; and a person shall not operate, and an owner shall not knowingly permit to be operated, upon any highway, a vehicle unless the license plate is so attached. A special permit or temporary license plate issued in lieu of permanent license plates shall be attached and displayed on the vehicle for which the permit or temporary license plate was issued until the temporary license plate or the special permit expires, or the permanent license plates are received, whichever occurs first.

**(b)** This section shall become operative January 1, 2019.

## Cal. Veh. Code § 5204. Tabs indicating month and year of expiration

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**(a)** Except as provided by subdivisions (b) and (c), a tab shall indicate the year of expiration and a tab shall indicate the month of expiration. Current month and year tabs shall be attached to the rear license plate assigned to the vehicle for the last preceding registration year in which license plates were issued, and, when so attached, the license plate with the tabs shall, for the purposes of this code, be deemed to be the license plate, except that truck tractors, and commercial motor vehicles having a declared gross vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more, shall display the current month and year tabs upon the front license plate assigned to the truck tractor or commercial motor vehicle. Vehicles that fail to display current month and year tabs or display expired tabs are in violation of this section.

**(b)** The requirement of subdivision (a) that the tabs indicate the year and the month of expiration does not apply to fleet vehicles subject to Article 9.5 (commencing with Section 5301) or vehicles defined in [Section 468](#).

**(c)** Subdivision (a) does not apply when proper application for registration has been made pursuant to [Section 4602](#) and the new indicia of current registration have not been received from the department.

**(d)** This section is enforceable against any motor vehicle that is driven, moved, or left standing upon a highway, or in an offstreet public parking facility, in the same manner as provided in subdivision (a) of [Section 4000](#).

# Colorado

## C.R.S. 42-3-202. Number plates furnished to be attached

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**(1)**

**(a)** The owner shall attach the number plates assigned to a self-propelled vehicle, other than a motorcycle or street rod vehicle, to the vehicle with one in the front and the other in the rear. The owner shall attach the number plate assigned to a motorcycle, street rod vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, other vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle, or special mobile machinery to the rear of the vehicle. The owner shall display number plates during the current registration year, except as otherwise provided in this article 3.

**(b)** If the department issues a validating tab or sticker to a motor vehicle pursuant to section 42-3-201, the current month validating tab or sticker shall be displayed in the bottom left corner of the rear license plate. The current year validating tab or sticker shall be displayed in the bottom right corner of the rear license plate. The tabs or stickers shall be visible at all times.

**(2)**

**(a)**

**(I)** The owner or driver of a motor vehicle shall securely fasten the license plate to the vehicle to which it is assigned so as to prevent the plate from swinging.

**(II)** Except when authorized by this article 3 or rule of the department, the rear license plate must be:

**(A)** Horizontal at a height not less than twelve inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate;

**(B)** In a place and position to be clearly visible;

**(C)** Maintained free from foreign materials and clearly legible;

**(D)** At the approximate center of the vehicle measured horizontally; and

**(E)** Mounted on or within eighteen inches of the rear bumper.

**(III)** Except when authorized by this article 3, the front license plate must be:

**(A)** Displayed horizontally on the front of a motor vehicle in the location designated by the motor vehicle manufacturer;

**(B)** Maintained free from foreign materials; and

**(C)** Clearly legible.

**(b)** 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.

**(3)**

**(a)** A person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction.

**(b)** A person who violates paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section commits a class A traffic infraction and shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**(4)** Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (3) of this section, the owner of a military vehicle may elect to not display the vehicle's assigned license plate if the license plate is physically in the military vehicle and is available for inspection to any peace officer who requests the plate.

# Connecticut

## Conn. Gen. Stat. § 14-18. Display of number plates and stickers. Issuance of sample number plates. Return of number plates to commissioner.

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**(a)**

**(1)** Each motor vehicle for which one number plate has been issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display in a conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the number plate. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain the corresponding letters and numbers of the registration and number plate issued by the commissioner.

**(2)** Each motor vehicle for which two number plates have been issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display in a conspicuous place at the front and the rear of such vehicle the number plates. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain the corresponding letters and numbers of the number plate issued by the commissioner.

**(b)** Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

**(c)** Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall be entirely unobscured and the numerals and letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number plates shall be horizontal, and shall be fastened so as not to swing and, during the time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights, the rear number plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance of fifty feet. Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official number plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the visibility of any information on such number plates. Not more than one number plate shall be displayed on the front or rear of any motor vehicle in operation upon the public highways of the state; provided any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the commissioner, display more than one number plate in front or rear, subject to such conditions as the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate supplied by the commissioner is lost, or if the registered number thereon becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner of or the person in control of the motor vehicle for which such number plate was furnished shall immediately place a temporary number plate bearing said registration number upon such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate shall conform to the regular number plate and shall be displayed as nearly as possible as herein provided for such regular number plate; and such owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of the number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply for a new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to operate with such temporary plate and shall supply new number plates upon payment of the fee therefor as provided in [section 14-50a](#). Upon receipt of such new number plates and new certificate, the remaining old number plate, if any, and certificate shall be surrendered to the commissioner.

**(d)** All number plates shall be the property of the state and no title therein shall pass to any person registering a motor vehicle under the provisions of this chapter. The owner of any registered motor vehicle which is not reregistered at the end of a registration period shall, within ten days, cancel such registration in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and may return the number plates to the commissioner. Any person who sells a motor vehicle pursuant to section 14-150 or 49-61 shall, within ten days of such sale, return to the commissioner any number plates displayed on the vehicle or which come into such person's possession in connection with such sale. When the commissioner issues a new type of number plate for use by all persons registering motor vehicles, the obsolete number plates shall become the property of the registrant upon the expiration date.

**(e)** The commissioner may issue a number plate inscribed with the legend "SAMPLE". Such number plate shall not be displayed on any motor vehicle or used as official registration marker plates. The commissioner may impose a fee for the issuance of such number plate. Such fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of manufacturing and issuing such number plate.

**(f)** No person shall wilfully damage or destroy any number plate.

**(g)** Violation of any provision of subsection (a), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of this section shall be an infraction.

# Delaware

## 21 Del. C. § 2121. Number and registration plates; provision for the issuance of special license plates to the owners of motor vehicles who operate amateur radio stations; special vanity plates

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**(a)** The Department shall furnish 1 number plate for each vehicle registered. The Department shall also furnish registration plates as hereinafter provided. Upon the termination of the lawful use of any such plates they shall be returned to the Department.

**(b)** Each number plate shall have displayed thereon the registration number assigned to the vehicle, the name of this State, which may be abbreviated and in the case of motor farm trucks used exclusively by farmers in the operation of their farms and which have been registered for the reduced fee as provided by law, such plates for such farm motor trucks shall also display in large type the letter "F," meaning for farm motor trucks only. In addition to the reduced registration fee to be paid for the registration of such motor farm trucks, the owner thereof shall also pay to the Department the cost of such special number plates for such trucks. In case of vehicles registered for a gross rate of more than 5,000 pounds, the number plate may also show the gross weight for which the vehicle is registered. Each number plate for each vehicle shall also show, in the manner determined by the Department and as hereinafter provided, the period of expiration thereof for which the vehicle has been registered and the required registration fee paid. Each number plate and the identifying letters and numerals thereon, except the registration period or expiration thereof, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable at a distance of 100 feet during daylight.

Unless otherwise specified in this title, motor vehicles with a registered gross weight of 5,000 pounds or less may be assigned any type of number plate and motor vehicles with a registered gross weight of greater than 5,000 pounds but less than 10,000 pounds may be assigned any type of number plate except an "RV" plate. Motor vehicles, except for recreational vehicles, with a registered weight rating above 10,000 pounds will be assigned commercial or farm truck license plates. The number plates for motorcycles and mopeds, as defined by § 101(37) and (36) of this title, shall display thereon the letters "MC" for motorcycles and the letters "MP" for mopeds. The number plates for recreational vehicles and trailers as defined by § 101(59) and (58) of this title shall display thereon the letters "RV" for recreational motor vehicles and the letters "RT" for recreational trailers. The title registration number for mobile homes shall begin with the letters "MH" and park trailers with the letters "PT." Each number plate and special plate may have displayed thereon, in addition to all other numbers or letters required by this subsection, the words "The First State."

**(c)** The number plates shall be of such design, size, material and color as the Department may determine and shall be so constructed that validation plates, to be furnished by the Department as provided in this section, may be conveniently attached or affixed thereto and, when necessary, detached and removed therefrom.

**(d)** The Department shall furnish for each vehicle registered and upon the payment of the required fees a validation plate to be attached or affixed to the number plate as provided by subsection (c) of this section. Such validation plates shall be of such design, size, material and color and shall bear such legend or inscription as the Department may determine, showing the period or expiration date thereof.

**(e)** There may also be attached to any number plate an additional removable plate of a size and design approved by the Department, which additional plate may show such other data as the Department may approve. 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.

**(f)** The Department shall issue for every passenger motor vehicle, rented without a driver, the number of plates of the same type as issued for private passenger vehicles.

**(g)** Upon written application, the Department shall furnish to any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State and who holds a valid, unrevoked, and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, a special license plate for a motor vehicle owned by such individual and on which the required registration fee has been paid. The special plate shall bear the official amateur radio station call letters as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to said individual. The special plate shall supersede the regular numbered plate assigned to such motor vehicle during the time said individual holds a valid, unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and while such motor vehicle is owned by such individual; provided that, at all times, the necessary registration fee has been paid for such motor vehicle. Upon making application for such special license plate the owner shall pay, in addition to the regular registration fee, the sum of \$10 for such plate. Application shall be made on such form as shall be prescribed by the Department.

The special license plate shall have imprinted thereon only the call letters of the licensee, the words, "Delaware", "The First State" and the expiration date of the license plate.

**(h)** This title notwithstanding, the Department, upon written application, shall furnish to any owner of a motor vehicle otherwise entitled to a license plate, who is a resident of this State, a special vanity license plate for each motor vehicle owned by such individual for which the required registration fee has been paid, which plate shall have displayed thereon:

**(1)** Any single letter or combination of letters or combination of letters and numerals, not to exceed 7 in number. If the combination includes numerals, the numerals shall be displayed to the right of all letters on the plate. A hyphen shall be permitted and shall be counted as 1 letter. In its discretion, the Department may refuse any combination of letters, or letters and numerals. The Department may refuse 7 character combinations that do not allow adequate spacing between letters and/or numbers;

**(2)** The word "Delaware";

**(3)** The words "The First State";

**(4)** The expiration date of the license plates; and

**(5)** Gold letters on a blue background, except for license plates provided for in § 2123 of this title, in which case they shall be blue letters on a gold background.

Upon making application for such special vanity license plates, the owner shall pay \$40 annually for each plate in addition to the regular registration fee. Application shall be made on forms as prescribed by the Department. The Department shall issue such plates in the order in which the applications are received for any letter or combination thereof. Such license plates shall be the personal property of the owner so long as the owner shall comply with this section. No reasonable facsimile of any license plate as provided for in this chapter shall be displayed on the front of any motor vehicle registered in this State. The provisions of subsection (b) of this section relating to the display of the letters "P/C" for combination vehicles shall not be applicable to this subsection.

**(i)** This title notwithstanding, the Department, upon written application, shall furnish to any owner of a motorcycle, otherwise entitled to a Delaware license plate, a special vanity license plate, provided the required registration fee has been paid for such motorcycle pursuant to § 2151(1) of this title. Such special plate shall have displayed thereon:

**(1)** Any single letter or combination of letters or combinations of letters and numerals, not to exceed 5 in number. If the combination includes numerals, the numerals shall be displayed to the right of all letters on the plate. A hyphen shall be permitted and shall be counted as 1 letter. In its discretion, the Department may refuse any combination of letters, or letters and numerals;

**(2)** The word "Delaware";

**(3)** The letters M/C;

**(4)** The expiration date of the license plate; and

**(5)** Gold letters on a blue background.

Upon making application for such special vanity license plate, the owner shall pay \$40 annually for each plate in addition to the regular registration fee. Application shall be made on forms as prescribed by the Department. The Department shall issue such plates in the order in which the applications are received for any letter or combination thereof. Such license plate shall be the personal property of the owner so long as the owner shall comply with this section. No reasonable facsimile of any license plate as provided for in this chapter shall be displayed on the front of any motorcycle registered in this State.

**(j)** The number plates for recreational vehicles shall display thereon the letters "RV." A \$10 fee shall be assessed to change the certificate of title, registration and license plate for any vehicle already registered under another type of plate if the owner desires to change to a recreational vehicle tag.

**(k)** Effective March 27, 1996, individual special vanity license plates shall not be recalled when the Department issues other categories of special group license plates with conflicting letters and numbers.

## 21 Del. C. § 2122. Unauthorized use of or addition to plates

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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 design, symbol or legend on or attached to any such plates.

## 21 Del. C. § 2125. Ownership of plates

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Number and registration plates shall be the property of the State and shall be furnished by the Department for each registered motor vehicle without additional cost to the owner.

## 21 Del. C. § 2126. Display of number plates; penalty

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**(a)** The number plate assigned to a motor vehicle shall at all times be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle, except truck tractors attached to trailers or semitrailers, whether coupled or uncoupled, shall display the number plate on the front of the vehicle in such a manner as to be easily identified. Such number plates shall meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section. Special license plates may be displayed on the front or rear of the vehicle. The regular numbered plate assigned to the vehicle or a duplicate special license plate furnished under § 2121(h) of this title must be displayed on the vehicle rear when the special plate is displayed on the front of the vehicle.

**(b)** Every number plate shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned so as to prevent the plate from swinging and at a height not less than 12 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of such 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.

**(c)**

**(1)** 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.

**(2)** 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.

**(d)** Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be fined not less than \$ 25 nor more than \$ 50. Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section shall be fined not less than \$ 100 nor more than \$ 200.

**(e)** 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.

**(f)** 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.



# District of Columbia

## D.C. Code Mun. Regs. tit. 18 § 422. Display of Identification Tags.

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**422.1** Whenever a motor vehicle or trailer for which District of Columbia registration is required is being operated or left standing upon any public highway, such vehicle shall display two (2) current identification tags, with one (1) on the front and the other on the rear; except as follows:

**(a)** Motor vehicles need only display a special use identification tag on the rear of the vehicle; and

**(b)** Motor vehicles may display a souvenir presidential inauguration tag on the front of the vehicle not more than sixty (60) days before and not more than sixty (60) days after inauguration day; provided, that a current identification tag is displayed on the rear.

**422.2** Autocycles, motor-driven cycles, motorcycles, trailers, and vehicles identified by a dealer's tag or manufacturer's tag shall display only one (1) valid identification tag on the rear of the vehicle.

**422.3** A vehicle owned by a non-resident and currently registered in another jurisdiction shall display the proper identification tag or tags issued for the vehicle in accordance with the requirements of the issuing jurisdiction; provided, that the tags are displayed in accordance with §§ 422.4, 422.5, 422.6, and 422.8.

**422.4** Owner's identification tags shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which they are issued so as to prevent the tags from swinging and at a height of not less than twelve inches (12 in.) from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the tags, in a place and position to be clearly visible.

**422.5** 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.

**422.7** Validation stickers issued by the Director that indicate the expiration of a motor vehicle's registration period are required to be displayed as follows:

**(a)** For vehicles registered prior to April 22, 2002, and all motorized bicycles, motorcycles, and trailers, the stickers shall be affixed to the tags; the month sticker placed at the lower left corner and the year sticker placed at the lower right corner; and

**(b)** For vehicles not listed in (a), the sticker shall be affixed to the inside of the vehicle's windshield, on the driver's side.

**422.8** 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.

**422.9** A person operating a vehicle in violation of § 422.8 shall be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$ 500).

**422.10** Buses owned or leased by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority or the District of Columbia Public Schools may produce and display a special tag on the rear, in lieu of a tag issued by the District of Columbia; provided, that the size, color, design, and material are approved by the Director.

# Florida

Fla. Stat. § 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.

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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.



# Georgia

## O.C.G.A. § 40-2-6. Alteration of license plates; operation of vehicle with altered or improperly transferred plate

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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.

## O.C.G.A. § 40-2-6.1. Obscuring license plate in order to impede surveillance equipment

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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.

## § 40-2-41. Display of license plates

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Unless otherwise permitted under this chapter, every vehicle required to be registered under this chapter, which is in use upon the highways, shall at all times display the license plate issued to the owner for such vehicle, and the plate shall be fastened to the rear of the vehicle in a position so as not to swing and shall be at all times plainly visible. No person shall display on the rear of a motor vehicle any temporary or permanent plate or tag not issued by the State of Georgia which is intended to resemble a license plate which is issued by the State of Georgia. The commissioner is authorized to adopt rules and regulations so as to permit the display of a license plate on the front of certain vehicles. It shall be the duty of the operator of any vehicle to keep the license plate legible at all times. 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.

# Hawaii

## Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 249-7. Number plates.

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**(a)** Upon receipt of the tax the director of finance shall number and register the vehicle in the owner's name in a permanent record or book to be kept by the director for this purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof with a receipt showing upon its face the license number issued for the vehicle and the fact that the license tax has been paid thereon for the whole or the remainder of the current year in which the receipt is issued. The director of finance shall also furnish the owner, upon the original registration of the vehicle, two number plates for the vehicle or one plate in the case of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles with the registration number marked thereon. Upon the payment of the tax for each year a tag or emblem bearing a serial number and the month and year of expiration shall be provided to the owner. Transfer of current number plates, tag, or emblem, except as authorized by this chapter or by chapter 286, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each offense.

**(b)** Upon an original registration the director of finance shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new series of number plates as determined by the directors of finance of each county through majority consent, the director of finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of finance shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner shall securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on the front and the other on the rear, at a location provided by the manufacturer or in the absence of such a location upon the bumpers of the vehicle and in conformance with section 291-31, in such a manner as to prevent the plates from swinging. Number plates shall at all times be displayed entirely unobscured and be kept reasonably clean. In the case of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles, one plate shall be used and it shall be fastened to the rear thereof at a location provided by the manufacturer or in the absence of such a location at the rear thereof, and in the case of motorcycles in conformance with section 291-31.

**(c)** Upon the issuance of the tag or emblem the owner shall affix the tag or emblem to the top right portion of the rear number plate, except that all vehicles owned by the State, any county government, any board of water supply, and official representatives of any foreign governments shall be issued registrations which need be renewed only in the new plate issue year.

**(d)** After the initial payment of the tax and the original registration of a vehicle as herein specified, a motor vehicle shall not be required to be reweighed in any succeeding year unless it has been so altered or changed as to increase or diminish its weight. No new number plates shall, however, be issued to a new owner except as provided in sections 249-7.5 and 249-8.

**(e)** If an owner of a vehicle registered in any county, upon the disposition of the vehicle, requests that the license plates furnished to the owner with respect to the registration of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle subsequently acquired by the owner, the assignment may be made by the director of finance at the director's discretion. To defray additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to those requests, the director of finance shall charge a fee of \$5 for each reassignment of license plates, in addition to the fee for registration. The procedure for registering the vehicles shall otherwise be identical with that provided by this section.

# Idaho

## Idaho Code § 49-428. Display of plate and stickers

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**(1)** License plates assigned to a motor vehicle shall be attached, one (1) in the front and the other in the rear, with the exception of the following:

**(a)** The license plate assigned to a motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, utility type vehicle, motorbike or semitrailer and the license plate assigned to a motor vehicle operated by a manufacturer, repossession agent or dealer shall be attached to the rear.

**(b)** Vehicles displaying year of manufacture, old timer, classic car or street rod license plates shall be allowed to display one (1) plate attached to the rear of the vehicle.

**(c)** The license plate attached to a tractor shall be attached to the front.

**(d)** The wrecker plate shall be displayed on the vehicle being towed in such a manner as to be visible when the vehicle being towed is approached from the rear.

License plates shall be displayed during the current registration year. The annual registration sticker for the current registration year shall be displayed on each license plate, except for trailers and semitrailers on extended registration under the provisions of [section 49-434, Idaho Code](#). For the purposes of this title, the license plates together with the registration stickers shall be considered as license plates for the year designated on the registration sticker.

**(2)** 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 as provided in [section 49-443\(4\), Idaho Code](#).

# Illinois

## 625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/3-413 Display of Registration Plates or Digital Registration Plates, Registration Stickers, And Drive-Away Permits; Registration Plate or Digital Registration Plate Covers

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**(a)** Registration plates or digital registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, autocycle, trailer, semitrailer, truck-tractor, apportioned bus, or apportioned truck shall be attached thereto, one in the front and one in the rear. The registration plate or digital registration plate issued for a motorcycle, autocycle, trailer or semitrailer required to be registered hereunder and any apportionment plate issued to a bus under the provisions of this Code shall be attached to the rear thereof. The registration plate or digital registration plate issued for a truck-tractor or an apportioned truck required to be registered hereunder shall be attached to the front thereof.

**(b)** Except for vehicles with rear loaded motorized forklifts, every registration plate or digital 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 5 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of such plate, in a place and position to be clearly visible and shall be maintained in a condition to be clearly legible, free from any materials that would obstruct the visibility of the plate. A registration plate or digital registration plate on a motorcycle may be mounted vertically as long as it is otherwise clearly visible. Registration stickers or digital registration stickers issued as evidence of renewed annual registration shall be attached to registration plates or displayed on digital registration plates as required by the Secretary of State, and be clearly visible at all times. For those vehicles with rear loaded motorized forklifts, if the rear plate is securely fastened in a horizontal position as prescribed, the plate and registration sticker shall not be required to be clearly visible at all times as a result of the rear mounted motorized forklift obstructing the view.

**(c)** Every drive-away permit issued pursuant to this Code shall be firmly attached to the motor vehicle in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State. If a drive-away permit is affixed to a motor vehicle in any other manner the permit shall be void and of no effect.

**(d)** The Illinois prorate decal issued to a foreign registered vehicle part of a fleet prorated or apportioned with Illinois, shall be displayed on a registration plate or digital registration plate and displayed on the front of such vehicle in the same manner as an Illinois registration plate or digital registration plate.

**(e)** The registration plate or digital registration plate issued for a camper body mounted on a truck displaying registration plates or digital registration plates shall be attached to the rear of the camper body.

**(f)** No person shall operate a vehicle, nor permit the operation of a vehicle, upon which is displayed an Illinois registration plate or plates or digital registration plate or plates or registration stickers or digital registration stickers, except as provided for in subsection (b) of Section 3-701 of this Code [[625 ILCS 5/3-701](#)], after the termination of the registration period for which issued or after the expiration date set pursuant to Sections 3-414 and 3-414.1 of this Code [[625 ILCS 5/3-414](#) and [625 ILCS 5/3-414.1](#)].

**(g)** A person may not operate any motor vehicle that is equipped with registration plate or digital 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.

**(h)** A person may not sell or offer for sale a registration plate or digital registration plate cover. A violation of this subsection (h) is a business offense.

**(i)** A person may not advertise for the purpose of promoting the sale of registration plate or digital registration plate covers. A violation of this subsection (i) is a business offense.

**(j)** A person may not modify the original manufacturer's mounting location of the rear registration plate or digital registration plate on any vehicle so as to conceal the registration or to knowingly cause it to be obstructed in an effort to hinder a peace officer from obtaining the registration for the enforcement of a violation of this Code, Section 27.1 of the Toll Highway Act [[605 ILCS 10/27.1](#)] concerning toll evasion, or any municipal ordinance. Modifications prohibited by this subsection (j) include but are not limited to the use of an electronic device. A violation of this subsection (j) is a Class A misdemeanor.

# Indiana

## Ind. Code Ann. § 9-18.1-4-4. Display of license plates.

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**(a)** License plates, including temporary license plates, shall be displayed as follows:

**(1)** For a tractor, a dump truck, or a truck with a rear-mounted forklift or a mechanism to carry a rear-mounted forklift or implement, upon the front of the vehicle.

**(2)** For every other vehicle, upon the rear of the vehicle.

**(b)** A license plate shall be:

**(1)** securely fastened, in a horizontal and upright position that displays the registration expiration year in the upper right corner, to the vehicle for which the plate is issued:

**(A)** to prevent the license plate from swinging;

**(B)** at a height of at least twelve (12) inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the license plate; and

**(C)** in a place and position that are clearly visible;

**(2)** maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible; and

**(3)** not obstructed or obscured by tires, bumpers, accessories, or other opaque objects.

**(c)** An interim license plate issued or used by a dealer licensed under IC 9-32 or used by a manufacturer must be displayed:

**(1)** in the manner required under subsection (a) for the type of vehicle on which the interim license plate is displayed; or

**(2)** in a location on the left side of a window that is:

**(A)** facing the rear of the motor vehicle; and

**(B)** clearly visible and unobstructed.

A plate displayed under subdivision (2) must be affixed to the window of the motor vehicle.

**(d)** Upon the renewal of a registration under this article, a license plate other than a temporary license plate must display a renewal sticker:

**(1)** that is securely affixed in the upper right corner of the license plate; and

**(2)** that covers the previous registration expiration year.

**(e)** A person that violates this section commits a Class C infraction.

# Iowa

## Iowa Code § 321.37 Display of plates.

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1. Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than an autocyce, motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or truck tractor shall be attached to the motor vehicle, one in the front and the other in the rear. The registration plate issued for an autocyce, motorcycle, or other vehicle required to be registered hereunder shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The registration plate issued for a truck tractor shall be attached to the front of the truck tractor. The special plate issued to a dealer shall be attached on the rear of the vehicle when operated on the highways of this state.
2. Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle which is model year 1948 or older, and reconstructed or specially constructed vehicles built to resemble a model year 1948 vehicle or older, other than a truck registered for more than five tons, autocyce, motorcycle, or truck tractor, may display one registration plate on the rear of the vehicle if the other registration plate issued to the vehicle is carried in the vehicle at all times when the vehicle is operated on a public highway.
3. It is unlawful for the owner of a vehicle to place any frame around or over the registration plate which does not permit full view of all numerals and letters printed on the registration plate.

# Kansas

## Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-133. Display of license plate.

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The license plate assigned to the vehicle shall be attached to the rear thereof and shall be so displayed during the current registration year or years. A Kansas registered vehicle shall have no registration plate for any year on the front of the vehicle, except that: (a) The license plate issued for a truck tractor shall be attached to the front of the truck tractor; (b) a model year license plate may be attached to the front of an antique vehicle, in accordance with [K.S.A. 8-172](#), and amendments thereto; or (c) a personalized license plate as authorized under subsection (c) of [K.S.A. 8-132](#), and amendments thereto, may be attached to the front of a passenger vehicle or truck. Every license plate shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned so as to prevent the plate from swinging, and at a height not less than 12 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of such 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. During any period in which the construction of license plates has been suspended pursuant to the provisions of [K.S.A. 8-132](#), and amendments thereto, the plate, tag, token, marker or sign assigned to such vehicle shall be attached to and displayed on such vehicle in such place, position, manner and condition as shall be prescribed by the director of vehicles.

# Kentucky

## Ky. Rev. Stat. § 186.170. Display of registration plates, insignia — Decals to cover corporation trademark — Registration years.

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(1) Except as provided in this subsection and in [KRS 186.045](#), the owner shall have the receipt issued by the cabinet through the county clerk constantly in his possession, and shall display the registration plate conspicuously upon the rear of the motor vehicle, except that the registration plate upon a semitrailer-tractor shall be displayed upon the front of the tractor. The owner's copy, or a reproduced copy thereof, of the registration receipt of every motor vehicle, except motorcycles, licensed under [KRS 186.050](#) shall be kept in the vehicle at all times and shall be available for inspection. Plates shall be kept legible at all times and the rear plate shall be illuminated when being operated during the hours designated in [KRS 189.030](#). No rim, frame, or other covering around the plate shall in any way obscure or cover any lettering or decal on the plate; 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. The owner may apply for the decal by presenting his certificate of registration either at the time of registration renewal or later. The county clerk shall charge a three dollar (\$3) clerk's fee for issuing the decal set if it is applied for a time other than at registration renewal. If the cabinet has prescribed that plates shall continue in use, it shall each year, in addition to the registration receipt, select and give to the owner as further evidence of registration some insignia which may conveniently be attached permanently and conspicuously to the motor vehicle during each registration year. It shall be the duty of the owner to attach the insignia in the prescribed manner and no person may operate a motor vehicle unless the insignia is affixed upon it. The cabinet shall have placed on the insignia either figures, letters, writing, marks, or a combination thereof, which indicate that the motor vehicle has been registered and which in conjunction with the records of the cabinet make identity of the registrant readily ascertainable.

(2) The registration year for commercial vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, mobile homes, and recreational vehicles shall be from April 1 to March 31.

(3) At the discretion of the vehicle owner, the title to a motor vehicle may be held in the system and subsequently printed and mailed to the owner at the owner's request.



# Louisiana

## La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32:53. Proper equipment required on vehicles

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### A.

**(1)** No person shall drive or move, nor cause or knowingly permit any vehicle owned or controlled by him to be driven or moved, on any highway of this state, at any time, any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person or property, or which does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with such lamps and other equipment, in proper condition and adjustment, as required in this Chapter, or which is constructed or equipped in any manner in violation of this Chapter, and no person shall do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required under this Chapter.

**(2)** The permanent registration license plate assigned to a trailer, semitrailer, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle shall be attached to the rear thereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the permanent registration license plate assigned to any truck having a gross vehicle weight in excess of ten thousand pounds or to any dump truck may be attached to either the front or rear thereof. For the purposes of this Section, dump truck means any truck with a bed that raises to dump a load. The permanent registration license plate shall be so displayed during the current registration year, except as otherwise provided herein.

**(3)** Every permanent registration license plate shall at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned, so as to prevent the plate from swinging, and at a height not less than twelve inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of such 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. Unless authorized by the commissioner, a person shall not apply a covering or any substance to the license plate or use an electronic device or electrochromatic film that obscures from any angle the numbers, characters, year registration sticker, or name of the jurisdiction issuing the plate.

**(4)** The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to prohibit placing a permanent registration license plate on a rear fender as long as it is facing to the rear of the vehicle.

**B.** Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter.

**C.** The provisions of this Chapter with respect to equipment on vehicles shall not apply to implements of husbandry, nor to vehicles used solely in building highways when they are temporarily upon the highways, except as herein made applicable. These exceptions shall not exclude any vehicle or combination of vehicles not used primarily for this purpose, or ordinary commercial vehicles upon which are placed removable machinery for such purposes, or vehicles designed for the purpose of evading the limitations of this Chapter.

**D.** No person shall drive a vehicle upon highways within this state, or permit or allow any vehicle owned by him or under his control to be driven on said highways, unless and until such vehicle bears an inspection tag showing it to have been inspected and approved as required by the provisions of [R.S. 32:1301](#)—32:1310, if such vehicle is required to be so inspected.

# Maine

## Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 29-A, § 452. Manner of display

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**1. Position of registration plate.** A registration plate must be displayed horizontally. Only one set of Maine registration plates may be displayed on one vehicle. A registration plate must be attached to the front and the rear of each vehicle except as follows.

**A.** A trailer and semitrailer registration plate may be attached only to the rear of that trailer or semitrailer.

**B.** A motorcycle registration plate may not be attached to the front of that motorcycle.

**C.** A manufacturer, dealer or transporter registration plate may be attached only to the rear of the vehicle.

**D.** A truck tractor registration plate may be attached only to the front of that truck tractor.

**2. Farm trucks.** The registration plate for a farm truck or vehicle used for hauling forest products may be attached by means of a rigid or semirigid bracket that allows the plate to swing freely.

**3. Proper display.** Registration plates must always be properly displayed.

**4. Plainly visible and legible.** Registration plates, including the numbers, letters and words, must always be plainly visible and legible.

# Maryland

## Md. Code Ann. Transp. § 13-411. Display of registration plates and tabs [subject to amendment effective January 1, 2021]

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**(a) Vehicles for which two registration plates required.** -- On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

**(b) Vehicles for which one registration plate required.** -- On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the plate shall be attached on the:

**(1)** Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

**(2)** Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

**(c) How plates fastened; legibility.** -- At all times, each registration plate shall be:

**(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; and

**(2)** Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

**(i)** In a horizontal position;

**(ii)** In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

**(iii)** In a place and position to be clearly visible.

**(d) Operation without plates or tabs prohibited.** -- Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle and displayed on it, as required in this title:

**(1)** A registration plate or plates issued for the vehicle by the Administration for the current registration period; and

**(2)** Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

**(e) Allowing certain vehicles to be driven.** -- Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

**(1)** A registration plate or plates issued by the Administration for the current registration period; and

**(2)** Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

**(f) Display of expired or unauthorized plates prohibited.** -- Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear any expired registration plate issued by any state.

**(g) Display of improper registration plates.** -- Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other than the owner of the vehicle.

**(h) Historic or antique vehicles.** --

**(1)** A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle provided for the display of registration plates may only be used for the display of current registration plates in accordance with subsections (a) through (c) of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

**(2)** If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration plates in lieu of current registration plates, as provided in § 13-936.1 of this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under subsections (a) through (c) of this section. However, the current registration plates shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

**(i) Duty of police officers to report violations.** -- It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

## § 13-411. Display of registration plates and tabs (Section effective January 1, 2021.)

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**(a) Vehicles for which two registration plates required.** -- On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

**(b) Vehicles for which one registration plate required.** -- On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the plate shall be attached on the:

**(1)** Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

(2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

**(c) How plates fastened; legibility. --**

(1) At all times, each registration plate shall be:

(i) 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; and

(ii) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

1. In a horizontal position;

2. In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

3. In a place and position to be clearly visible.

(2) For a violation involving the placement of an object framing or bordering the edges of a registration plate, a police officer may enforce this subsection only as a secondary action when the police officer detains a driver of a motor vehicle for a suspected violation of another provision of the Code.

**(d) Operation without plates or tabs prohibited. --** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle and displayed on it, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate or plates issued for the vehicle by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

**(e) Allowing certain vehicles to be driven. --** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate or plates issued by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

**(f) Display of expired or unauthorized plates prohibited. --** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear any expired registration plate issued by any state.

**(g) Display of improper registration plates. --** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other than the owner of the vehicle.

**(h) Historic or antique vehicles. --**

(1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle provided for the display of registration plates may only be used for the display of current registration plates in accordance with subsections (a) through (c) of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

(2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration plates in lieu of current registration plates, as provided in § 13-936.1 of this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under subsections (a) through (c) of this section. However, the current registration plates shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

**(i) Duty of police officers to report violations. --** It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

## Md. Code Ann. Transp. § 13-411.1. Registration plate cover

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**(a) "Registration plate cover" defined. --** In this section, "registration plate cover" means any tinted, colored, painted, marked, clear, or illuminated object that is designed to:

(1) Cover 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) Sale. --** A person may not sell or offer for sale a registration plate cover.

**(c) Advertisement. --** A person may not advertise for the purpose of promoting the sale of registration plate covers.

# Massachusetts

## Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 90 § 6. Number Plates; Display; Temporary Plates.

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Every motor vehicle or trailer registered under this chapter when operated in or on any way in this commonwealth shall have its register number displayed conspicuously thereon by the number plates furnished by the registrar in accordance with section two or five or by temporary number plates authorized by the registrar as hereinafter provided, one number plate to be attached at the front and one at the rear of said motor vehicle, and one number plate to be attached at the rear of said trailer, but if the registrar issues but one number plate it shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle so that it shall always be plainly visible. The said number plates shall be kept clean with the numbers legible and shall not be obscured in any manner by the installation of any device obscuring said numbers, and during the period when the vehicle or trailer is required to display lights the rear register number shall be illuminated so as to be plainly visible at a distance of sixty feet. No number plates other than such as are procured from the registrar or such as may be authorized by him for temporary use, except as provided in section three, shall be displayed on any motor vehicle or trailer so operated; provided, that a motor vehicle or trailer which by reason of its interstate operation is registered in this commonwealth and elsewhere may display the register number plates of this and any other state or country in which it is registered, if, while being operated on the ways of this commonwealth, the number plates furnished by the registrar, or temporary number plates authorized by him as hereinafter provided, are displayed as required hereby. If any number plate supplied by the registrar is lost or mutilated or if the register number thereon becomes illegible, the owner or person in control of the vehicle for which said number plate was furnished shall make application for a new number plate, and thereupon the registrar shall issue to such applicant a permit allowing him to place a temporary number plate bearing his register number on said vehicle until a number plate of the regular design is made and delivered to said applicant; provided, that all such temporary number plates and the register numbers thereon shall conform to the regular number plates and be displayed as nearly as may be as herein provided for said regular number plates. Any motor vehicle or trailer may, if duly registered, be operated, pushed, drawn or towed or remain upon any way between the hours of twelve o'clock noon on the date on which its registration expires and twelve o'clock noon on the following day, if the following day is the first day of the new registration period, and if such vehicle or trailer displays its register number for either registration period as otherwise required by this section.

# Michigan

Mich. Comp. Laws Serv. § 257.225. Registration plate; attachment to vehicle; legibility; color; distinctive registration plates; name plate, insignia, or advertising device; limitation; historic military vehicle; violation as civil infraction.

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**(1)** Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsection (6), a registration plate issued for a vehicle shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle. A registration plate issued for a truck tractor or road tractor shall be attached to the front of the vehicle.

**(2)** A registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which the plate is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. The plate shall be attached at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground, measured from the bottom of the plate, in a place and position that is clearly visible. The plate shall be maintained free from foreign materials that obscure or partially obscure the registration information and in a clearly legible condition. The attachment to the rear of a vehicle of a tow ball, bicycle rack, removable hitch, or any other device designed to carry an object on the rear of a vehicle, including the object being carried, does not violate this subsection.

**(3)** A registration plate or an expiration tab on the registration plate shall be of a different color designated by the secretary of state with a marked contrast between the color of the registration plate and the numerals or letters on the plate. The secretary of state may provide a distinctive registration plate as a replacement for a standard plate. To honor a special or historical event, the secretary of state may provide a commemorative plate as a replacement for a standard plate.

**(4)** 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.

**(5)** 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.

**(6)** A registration plate issued for a historic military vehicle that is authorized to be operated on the roads of this state is not required to be attached to the rear or the front of the historic military vehicle unless the historic military vehicle was originally manufactured with lighting and mounting provisions for a registration plate. However, if the registration plate is not attached to the exterior of the historic military vehicle, it shall be present in the historic military vehicle to which it refers and shall be made available upon demand of a police officer. As used in this subsection, "historic military vehicle" means a vehicle, including a trailer, regardless of the vehicle's size, weight, or year of manufacture, that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces and is maintained to represent its military design and markings accurately.

**(7)** A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

# Minnesota

## Minn. Stat. Ann. § 169.79 VEHICLE REGISTRATION; DISPLAYING LICENSE PLATES

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**Subdivision 1. *Registration required.*** — No person shall operate, drive, or park a motor vehicle on any highway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the number plates or permit confirming that valid registration or operating authority has been obtained, except as provided in sections 168.10 and 168.12, subdivision 2f, as assigned to it by the commissioner of public safety, conspicuously displayed thereon in a manner that the view of any plate or permit is not obstructed. A plate issued under section 168.27 or a permit issued under chapter 168 may be displayed on a vehicle in conjunction with expired registration whether or not it displays the license plate to which the last registration was issued.

**Subd. 2. *Semitrailer.*** — If the vehicle is a semitrailer, the number plate displayed must be assigned to the registered owner and correlate to the documentation on file with the department.

**Subd. 3. *Rear display of single plate.*** — If the vehicle is a motorcycle, motor scooter, motorized bicycle, motorcycle sidecar, trailer registered at greater than 3,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW), semitrailer, or vehicle displaying a dealer plate, then one license plate must be displayed horizontally or vertically, for a motorcycle issued vertical license plates under section 168.12, subdivision 2a, with the identifying numbers and letters facing outward from the vehicle and must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle.

**Subd. 3a. *Small trailer.*** — If the vehicle is a trailer with 3,000 pounds or less GVW with lifetime registration, the numbered plate or sticker must be adhered to the side of the trailer frame tongue near the hitch.

**Subd. 4. *Collector's vehicle.*** — If the vehicle is (1) a collector's vehicle with a pioneer, classic car, collector, or street rod license; (2) a vehicle that meets the requirements of a pioneer, classic, or street rod vehicle except that the vehicle is used for general transportation purposes; or (3) a vehicle that is of model year 1972 or earlier, not registered under section 168.10, subdivision 1c, and is used for general transportation purposes, then one plate must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle, or one plate on the front and one on the rear, at the discretion of the owner.

**Subd. 5. *Truck-tractor, road-tractor, or farm truck.*** — If the vehicle is a truck-tractor, road-tractor, or farm truck, as defined in section 168.002, subdivision 8, but excluding from that definition semitrailers and trailers, then one plate must be displayed on the front of the vehicle.

**Subd. 6. *Other motor vehicles.*** — If the motor vehicle is any kind of motor vehicle other than those provided for in subdivisions 2 to 4, one plate must be displayed on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle.

**Subd. 7. *Plate fastened and visible.*** — All plates must be (1) securely fastened so as to prevent them from swinging, (2) displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters facing outward from the vehicle, and (3) mounted in the upright position. The person driving the motor vehicle shall keep the plate legible and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering is plainly visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover any assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin of a license plate with any material whatever, including any clear or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity.

**Subd. 8. *Plate registration stickers.*** — As viewed facing the plates:

**(a)** License plates issued to vehicles registered under section 168.017 must display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of each plate.

**(b)** License plates issued to vehicles registered under section 168.127 must display either fleet registration validation stickers in the lower right corner of each plate or distinctive license plates, issued by the registrar, with "FLEET REG" displayed on the bottom center portion of each plate.

**(c)** License plates issued after July 1, 2008, requiring validation must display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of the plate.

**Subd. 9. *Tax-exempt vehicle marking.*** — Vehicles displaying tax-exempt plates issued under section 16B.581 or 168.012 must have vehicle markings that comply with section 168.012, subdivision 1.



# Mississippi

## Miss. Code Ann. § 27-19-31. License tags or plates and renewal license decals; issuance and duration; contents; fastening to vehicles; county designation on license tags; defaced tags and decals.

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(1) The Department of Revenue is authorized and directed to establish and maintain a vehicle registration renewal system whereby the license tag attached upon a motor vehicle or trailer may be issued for five (5) years with the approval of the License Tag Commission, except for motor vehicles registered in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, and motor vehicles in a fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66](#) and trailers in a fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66.1](#), apportioned vehicles, rental and commercial trailers and buses, which shall be issued for a period of time determined by the Department of Revenue. During each intervening year of the period for which license tags are issued, the Department of Revenue shall issue up to two (2) license decals, in lieu of the license tags, the month and year in which the license tag expires shall be specified on one (1) of the decals so issued. Motor vehicles in a corporate fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66](#) and trailers in a fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66.1](#), shall not be issued decals specifying the month and year of expiration.

Any series of tags may be cancelled by the commissioner with the approval of the License Tag Commission and a new series of tags issued.

(2) The license decals issued in lieu of the license tags shall indicate the month and the last two (2) figures of the year for which such license shall expire. The license decals shall be attached to the license tag of the motor vehicle or trailer, and when so attached shall be deemed to be the license tag for the ensuing registration year. The month and year decal shall be attached in an upright position in the lower right corner of the license tag. Decals specifying the month and year of expiration shall not be required to be attached to license tags on motor vehicles in a corporate fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66](#) or trailers in a fleet registered under [Section 27-19-66.1](#).

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the registration year shall be a period of one (1) year commencing on the first day of the month following the month in which the vehicle was acquired. Beginning October 1, 1982, original registrations of motor vehicles, except motor vehicles registered in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, apportioned vehicles and buses, may be made and shall be prorated for a period of from six (6) to eleven (11) months according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue to reduce a disproportionate number of registrations for a particular month. Beginning July 1, 1995, original registrations and renewal registrations of motor vehicles in corporate fleets registered under [Section 27-19-66](#), shall be prorated according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue so as to cause the registration of such fleet motor vehicles to coincide with the anniversary month for corporate fleets established by the Department of Revenue. Beginning July 1, 2011, original registrations and renewal registrations of trailers in trailer fleets registered under [Section 27-19-66.1](#) shall be prorated according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue so as to cause the registration of such trailers to coincide with the anniversary month for trailer fleets established by the Department of Revenue. Where a vehicle is registered for a period less than twelve (12) months, the anniversary month shall be the month of the expiration of the original license tag.

Beginning July 1, 1996, original registrations and renewal registrations of motor vehicles in individual fleets registered under [Section 27-19-66](#) shall be prorated according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue so as to cause the registration of such fleet motor vehicles to coincide with the anniversary month for individual fleets established by the county tax collector. Where a vehicle is registered for a period less than twelve (12) months, the anniversary month shall be the month of the expiration of the original license tag.

The Department of Revenue, with the approval of the License Tag Commission, shall so specify the area or areas on the license tag where the license decals shall be attached. The number of the license tag shall be written across its face, and the number of the tag shall represent the registration number; and upon all the tags for private passenger vehicles the word "MISSISSIPPI" shall be written across the top of the tag in capital letters sufficiently large to be easily read, but upon all other tags such word may be abbreviated. The number of the license tag shall not exceed seven (7) letters, numbers or a combination of such letters and numbers. Also, on all tags sold and issued, an appropriate place will be provided thereon to place license decals indicating the expiration date of the tag. For the purposes of this section and [Section 27-19-32, Mississippi Code of 1972](#), the term "decal," "decals" or "license decal" shall mean a tab, sticker or other similar device attached to a license tag which validates same for a stated period of time. One (1) license tag and up to two (2)



license decals shall be furnished for all vehicles and shall be fastened immovably twelve (12) inches or more above the ground, at the rear of the vehicle under or over the rear light, with the number in upright position so that it will be plainly visible and legible at all times, and at night at a distance of sixty (60) feet. In the case of tractors or other motor vehicles drawing or pulling trailers, semitrailers or farm implements, the tag shall be fastened upon such vehicle twelve (12) inches or more above the ground, upon the front or back of such vehicle, with the number in an upright position. 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. Unless the license tag with current decals is fastened to the vehicle as herein provided, the said vehicle shall be regarded as operating without a license tag, and the owner or operator shall be liable for the penalties herein provided.

In addition to the above requirements, license tags for private passenger vehicles shall have a county designation thereon referencing the name of the county in which such vehicle is registered.

Law enforcement officers of this state shall remove from a motor vehicle or trailer any license tag and/or decals which are so defaced that proper identification cannot be reasonably made. The officer shall issue to the driver of such vehicle a tag permit which shall be valid for a period of five (5) days. Each person receiving such tag permit shall purchase, within five (5) days from the date of the issuance of the permit, a new tag and/or decals for the fee set forth in [Section 27-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972](#), for a substitute tag.

Any person who has a license tag or decals on a vehicle which may be so defaced that proper identification cannot be reasonably made may remove such and purchase another license tag and/or decals for the same fee required for a substitute tag. If any license tag shall deteriorate due to age so that identification cannot be reasonably made, the owner may surrender such tag to the issuing authority and be issued a new tag and like decals at no cost.

**(3)** The Department of Revenue is authorized to promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to govern the use and display of license decals and to publish a summary thereof which shall be available to state officials and the public upon request.

# Missouri

## Mo. Rev. Stat. § 301.130. License plates, required slogan and information — special plates — plates, how displayed — tabs to be used — rulemaking authority, procedure

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1. The director of revenue, upon receipt of a proper application for registration, required fees and any other information which may be required by law, shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration in such manner and form as the director of revenue may prescribe and a set of license plates, or other evidence of registration, as provided by this section. Each set of license plates shall bear the name or abbreviated name of this state, the words "SHOW-ME STATE", the month and year in which the registration shall expire, and an arrangement of numbers or letters, or both, as shall be assigned from year to year by the director of revenue. The plates shall also contain fully reflective material with a common color scheme and design for each type of license plate issued pursuant to this chapter. The plates shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be aesthetically attractive. Special plates for qualified disabled veterans will have the "DISABLED VETERAN" wording on the license plates in preference to the words "SHOW-ME STATE" and special plates for members of the National Guard will have the "NATIONAL GUARD" wording in preference to the words "SHOW-ME STATE".
2. The arrangement of letters and numbers of license plates shall be uniform throughout each classification of registration. The director may provide for the arrangement of the numbers in groups or otherwise, and for other distinguishing marks on the plates.
3. All property-carrying commercial motor vehicles to be registered at a gross weight in excess of twelve thousand pounds, all passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles, local transit buses, school buses, trailers, semitrailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, autocycles, motorscooters, and driveaway vehicles shall be registered with the director of revenue as provided for in subsection 3 of [section 301.030](#), or with the state highways and transportation commission as otherwise provided in this chapter, but only one license plate shall be issued for each such vehicle, except as provided in this subsection. The applicant for registration of any property-carrying commercial vehicle registered at a gross weight in excess of twelve thousand pounds may request and be issued two license plates for such vehicle, and if such plates are issued, the director of revenue shall provide for distinguishing marks on the plates indicating one plate is for the front and the other is for the rear of such vehicle. The director may assess and collect an additional charge from the applicant in an amount not to exceed the fee prescribed for personalized license plates in subsection 1 of [section 301.144](#).
4. The plates issued to manufacturers and dealers shall bear the letters and numbers as prescribed by [section 301.560](#), and the director may place upon the plates other letters or marks to distinguish commercial motor vehicles and trailers and other types of motor vehicles.
5. No motor vehicle or trailer shall be operated on any highway of this state unless it shall have displayed thereon the license plate or set of license plates issued by the director of revenue or the state highways and transportation commission and authorized by [section 301.140](#). Each such plate shall be securely fastened to the motor vehicle or trailer in a manner so that all parts thereof shall be plainly visible and reasonably clean so that the reflective qualities thereof are not impaired. Each such plate may be encased in a transparent cover so long as the plate is plainly visible and its reflective qualities are not impaired. License plates shall be fastened to all motor vehicles except trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve thousand pounds on the front and rear of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The license plates on trailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, autocycles, and motorscooters shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicles either horizontally or vertically, with the letters and numbers plainly visible. The license plate on buses, other than school buses, and on trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve thousand pounds shall be displayed on the front of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up or if two plates are issued for the vehicle pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, displayed in the same manner on the front and rear of such vehicles. The license plate or plates authorized by [section 301.140](#), when properly attached, shall be prima facie evidence that the required fees have been paid.
6.
  - (1) The director of revenue shall issue annually or biennially a tab or set of tabs as provided by law as evidence of the annual payment of registration fees and the current registration of a vehicle in lieu of the set of plates. Beginning January 1, 2010, the director may prescribe any additional information recorded on the tab or tabs to ensure that the tab or tabs positively correlate with the license plate or plates issued by the department of revenue for such vehicle. Such tabs shall be produced in each license bureau office.
  - (2) The vehicle owner to whom a tab or set of tabs is issued shall affix and display such tab or tabs in the designated area of the license plate, no more than one per plate.
  - (3) A tab or set of tabs issued by the director of revenue when attached to a vehicle in the prescribed manner shall be prima facie evidence that the registration fee for such vehicle has been paid.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the director of revenue shall issue plates for a period of at least six years.

(5) For those commercial motor vehicles and trailers registered pursuant to [section 301.041](#), the plate issued by the highways and transportation commission shall be a permanent nonexpiring license plate for which no tabs shall be issued. Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner of any vehicle permanently registered pursuant to this section from the obligation to pay the annual registration fee due for the vehicle. The permanent nonexpiring license plate shall be returned to the highways and transportation commission upon the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the owner to whom the permanent nonexpiring license plate is issued, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement commercial motor vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri highways and transportation commission for the registration of such replacement commercial motor vehicle. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the highways and transportation commission shall issue a certificate of registration or other suitable evidence of payment of the annual fee, and such evidence of payment shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

(6) Upon the sale or disposal of any vehicle permanently registered under this section, or upon the termination of a lease of any such vehicle, the permanent nonexpiring plate issued for such vehicle shall be returned to the highways and transportation commission and shall not be valid for operation of such vehicle, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri highways and transportation commission for the registration of such replacement vehicle. If a vehicle which is permanently registered under this section is sold, wrecked or otherwise disposed of, or the lease terminated, the registrant shall be given credit for any unused portion of the annual registration fee when the vehicle is replaced by the purchase or lease of another vehicle during the registration year.

7. The director of revenue and the highways and transportation commission may prescribe rules and regulations for the effective administration of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of [section 536.024](#).

8. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, owners of motor vehicles other than apportioned motor vehicles or commercial motor vehicles licensed in excess of twenty-four thousand pounds gross weight may apply for special personalized license plates. Vehicles licensed for twenty-four thousand pounds that display special personalized license plates shall be subject to the provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of [section 301.030](#). On and after August 28, 2016, owners of motor vehicles, other than apportioned motor vehicles or commercial motor vehicles licensed in excess of twenty-four thousand pounds gross weight, may apply for any preexisting or hereafter statutorily created special personalized license plates.

9. No later than January 1, 2019, the director of revenue shall commence the reissuance of new license plates of such design as approved by the advisory committee under [section 301.125](#) consistent with the terms, conditions, and provisions of [section 301.125](#) and this chapter. Except as otherwise provided in this section, in addition to all other fees required by law, applicants for registration of vehicles with license plates that expire during the period of reissuance, applicants for registration of trailers or semitrailers with license plates that expire during the period of reissuance and applicants for registration of vehicles that are to be issued new license plates during the period of reissuance shall pay the cost of the plates required by this subsection. The additional cost prescribed in this subsection shall not be charged to persons receiving special license plates issued under [section 301.073](#) or [301.443](#). Historic motor vehicle license plates registered pursuant to [section 301.131](#) and specialized license plates are exempt from the provisions of this subsection. Except for new, replacement, and transfer applications, permanent nonexpiring license plates issued to commercial motor vehicles and trailers registered under [section 301.041](#) are exempt from the provisions of this subsection.

# Montana

## Mont. Code Ann. § 61-3-332 Standard license plates.

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**(1)** In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of standard license plates must be issued for motor vehicles, quadricycles, travel trailers, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers registered in this state or offered for sale by a vehicle dealer licensed in this state. Standard license plates issued to licensed vehicle dealers must be readily distinguishable from license plates issued to vehicles owned by other persons.

**(2)**

**(a)** Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (2)(b), (3)(b), and (3)(c) of this section, all standard license plates for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must bear a distinctive marking, as determined by the department, and be furnished by the department. In years when standard license plates are not reissued for a vehicle, the department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.

**(b)** For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-562 and motor vehicles described in 61-3-303(9) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the motor vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed to the rear license plate of the permanently registered motor vehicle.

**(c)** For a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is permanently registered as provided in 61-3-313(2), the department may use the word or an abbreviation for the word "permanent" on the plate in lieu of issuing a registration decal for the plate.

**(3)**

**(a)**

**(i)** New license plates issued under 61-3-303 or this section must be a standard license plate design first issued in 1989 or later or current collegiate or generic specialty license plate designs. For the purposes of this subsection (3), all military, veteran, and amateur radio license plates and any license plate with a wheelchair design, excluding collegiate or generic specialty plates with a wheelchair design, are treated as standard license plates.

**(ii)** License plates issued on or after January 1, 2010, must be replaced with new license plates if, upon renewal of registration under 61-3-312, the license plates are 5 or more years old or will become older than 5 years during the registration period. New license plates must be issued in accordance with the implementation schedule adopted by the department under [section 22].

**(iii)** A vehicle owner may elect to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under this subsection.

**(b)** A motor vehicle that is registered for a 13-month to a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-311, may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire registration period.

**(c)** A light vehicle described in subsection (2)(b) or a motor home that is permanently registered may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the light vehicle or motor home is permanently registered.

**(d)** The provisions of this subsection (3) do not apply to a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

**(e)** The requirements of this subsection (3) apply to collegiate license plates authorized under 61-3-461 through 61-3-468, generic specialty license plates authorized under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, commemorative centennial license plates authorized under 61-3-448, and special military or veteran license plates authorized under 61-3-458.

**(4)**

**(a)** All license plates must be metal and treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department. The word "Montana" must be placed on each license plate and, except for license plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on each standard license plate.

**(b)** Plates for semitrailers, travel trailers, pole trailers, trailers with a declared weight of 6,000 pounds or more, and motor vehicles, other than motorcycles and quadricycles, must be 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length.

**(c)** Plates for motorcycles and quadricycles must be 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length.

**(d)** The department shall issue plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length for trailers with a declared weight of less than 6,000 pounds unless a person registering a trailer with a declared weight of less than 6,000 pounds requests plates that are 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. A person registering a trailer shall pay all applicable fees for the plates chosen.

**(5)** The distinctive registration numbers for standard license plates must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, fleet license plates, and standard license plates

that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the motor vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

**(6)** For the use of exempt motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers and motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-321, in addition to the markings provided in this section, standard license plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

**(a)** For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

**(b)** For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for motor vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the standard license plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these standard license plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the license plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the plates.

**(7)** For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows: Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.

**(8)** Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a design that distinguishes each separate plate series. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of standard license plates, must be placed or mounted on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

**(9)**

**(a)** A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may and a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license operating a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart as provided in 61-5-122 must, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

**(b)** If the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the motor vehicle shall provide, upon request of a person authorized to enforce special parking laws or ordinances in this or any state, evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate in the form of a valid special parking permit issued to or renewed by the vehicle owner under 49-4-304 and 49-4-305.

**(c)** A person with a permanent condition, as provided in 49-4-301(2)(b), who has been issued a special license plate upon written application, as provided in this subsection (9), is not required to reapply upon reregistration of the motor vehicle.

**(10)** The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

# Nebraska

## Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-399. Display of plates; requirements.

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**(1)** Except as otherwise specifically provided, no person shall operate or park or cause to be operated or parked a motor vehicle or tow or park or cause to be towed or parked a trailer on the highways unless such motor vehicle or trailer has displayed the proper number of plates as required in the Motor Vehicle Registration Act.

In each registration period in which new license plates are not issued, previously issued license plates shall have affixed thereto the validation decals issued pursuant to [section 60-3,101](#). In all cases such license plates shall be securely fastened in an upright position to the motor vehicle or trailer so as to prevent such plates from swinging and at a minimum distance of twelve inches from the ground to the bottom of the license plate. No person shall attach to or display on such motor vehicle or trailer any (a) license plate or registration certificate other than as assigned to it for the current registration period, (b) fictitious or altered license plates or registration certificate, (c) license plates or registration certificate that has been canceled by the department, or (d) license plates lacking current validation decals.

**(2)** 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.

# Nevada

## Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 482.275. License plates: Display.

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1. The license plates for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, moped or motor vehicle being transported by a licensed vehicle transporter must be attached thereto, one in the rear and, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, one in the front. The license plate issued for all other vehicles required to be registered must be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The license plates must be so displayed during the current calendar year or registration period.
2. If the motor vehicle was not manufactured to include a bracket, device or other contrivance to display and secure a front license plate, and if the manufacturer of the motor vehicle provided no other means or method by which a front license plate may be displayed upon and secured to the motor vehicle:
  - (a) One license plate must be attached to the motor vehicle in the rear; and
  - (b) The other license plate may, at the option of the owner of the vehicle, be attached to the motor vehicle in the front.
3. The provisions of subsection 2 do not relieve the Department of the duty to issue a set of two license plates as otherwise required pursuant to [NRS 482.265](#) or other applicable law and do not entitle the owner of a motor vehicle to pay a reduced tax or fee in connection with the registration or transfer of the motor vehicle. If the owner of a motor vehicle, in accordance with the provisions of subsection 2, exercises the option to attach a license plate only to the rear of the motor vehicle, the owner shall:
  - (a) Retain the other license plate; and
  - (b) Insofar as it may be practicable, return or surrender both plates to the Department as a set when required by law to do so.
4. Every license plate must at all times be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned so as to prevent the plate from swinging and at a height not less than 12 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of such plate, in a place and position to be clearly visible, and must be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible.
5. Any license plate which is issued to a vehicle transporter or a dealer, rebuilder or manufacturer may be attached to a vehicle owned or controlled by that person by a secure means. No license plate may be displayed loosely in the window or by any other unsecured method in any motor vehicle.



# New Hampshire

## N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 261:75. Number Plates.

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**I.** The department shall design and issue to every person whose vehicle is registered a number plate or plates for a fee of \$4.00 per plate. Such plate or plates shall be furnished by the department yearly or at whatever interval of years the department shall determine. In all cases such plate or plates shall bear on the face thereof a permanent or changeable designation of their effective period.

**II.** Every vehicle driven in or on any way in this state, if required to be registered hereunder, shall have displayed conspicuously thereon a number plate or plates to be furnished by the department, together with any current validation sticker issued by the department and which has a changeable designation of their effective period. The director may make special rules relative to the number of plates, the location of said plate or plates on the vehicle, and the material and design thereof, provided, however, that number plates for passenger vehicles shall have the state motto "Live Free or Die" written thereon. The plate shall be kept clean.



# New Jersey

## N.J. Stat. § 39:3-33c. Merchandise intended to conceal, degrade license plate legibility prohibited; fine.

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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. The penalty for a violation of this section shall be a fine not to exceed \$500. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on a newspaper that accepts or publishes classified advertising for merchandise that 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.

# New Mexico

## N.M. Stat. Ann. § 66-3-18. Display of registration plates and temporary registration permits; displays prohibited and allowed.

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**A.** The registration plate shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle for which it is issued; however, the registration plate shall be attached to the front of a road tractor or truck tractor. The plate shall be securely fastened at all times in a fixed horizontal position at a height of not less than twelve inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate. It shall be in a place and position so as to be clearly visible, and it shall be maintained free from foreign material and in a condition to be clearly legible.

**B.** A demonstration or temporary registration permit shall be firmly affixed to the inside left rear window of the vehicle to which it is issued, unless such display presents a safety hazard or the demonstration or temporary registration permit is not visible or readable from that position, in which case, the demonstration or temporary registration permit shall be displayed in such a manner that it is clearly visible from the rear or left side of the vehicle.

**C.** No vehicle while being operated on the highways of this state shall have displayed either on the front or the rear of the vehicle any registration plate, including validating sticker, other than one issued or validated for the current registration period by the department or any other licensing authority having jurisdiction over the vehicle. No expired registration plate or validating sticker shall be displayed on the vehicle other than an expired special registration plate, which may be exhibited on the front of the vehicle.

**D.** Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the use of a promotional or advertising plate on the front of the vehicle.

**E.** A violation of a provision of this section is a penalty assessment misdemeanor.

# New York

## N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 402. Distinctive number; form of number plates; trailers

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1.

**(a)** No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on the public highways of this state unless such vehicle shall have a distinctive number assigned to it by the commissioner and a set of number plates issued by the commissioner with a number and other identification matter if any, corresponding to that of the certificate of registration conspicuously displayed, one on the front and one on the rear of such vehicle, each securely fastened so as to prevent the same from swinging and placed, whenever reasonably possible, not higher than forty-eight inches and not lower than twelve inches from the ground; provided, however, that in any registration year for which only one number plate is issued, such number plate shall constitute a set of number plates for the time in which such use is authorized, shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle and none shall be displayed on its front, except in case of a tractor, when such number plate shall be displayed on the front of the vehicle and none shall be displayed on its rear.

**(b)** 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, except for a receiver-transmitter issued by a publicly owned tolling facility in connection with electronic toll collection when such receiver-transmitter is affixed to the exterior of a vehicle in accordance with mounting instructions provided by the tolling facility.

2. Such number plates shall be of such material, form, design and dimensions and contain or set forth such distinguishing number or other identification marks as the commissioner shall prescribe, provided, however, that there shall be at all times a marked contrast between the color of the number plates and that of the numerals or letters thereon, and provided further that no vehicle shall display the number plates of more than one state at a time except where the vehicle is required to be registered in more than one state, and provided further that the number plates of a rental vehicle shall not display any indication of the rental status of such vehicle nor shall any plate be used other than those issued by the commissioner.

3. No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle drawing a trailer on the public highways of the state, unless such trailer shall have a distinctive number assigned to it by the commissioner and a number plate issued by such commissioner with a number corresponding to that of the certificate of registration displayed and fastened on the rear in the manner provided for number plates on the rear of a motor vehicle. The provisions of subdivision two of this section relating to number plates for motor vehicles shall apply to number plates for any such trailer. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply when a newly constructed trailer is being drawn to or from a weighing station solely for the purpose of determining the weight thereof.

4. No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state having displayed thereon number plates not proper for such vehicle under the provisions of this chapter and, upon a conviction for this offense, the number plates shall be surrendered to the court for delivery to the commissioner. The failure to produce the certificate of registration or registration renewal stub of a vehicle shall be presumptive evidence of displaying number plates not proper for the vehicle. Every annual number plate issued shall remain the property of the state until the correct registration fee is paid. Every number plate of a permanent nature for use with a removable date tag which shall be issued shall remain the property of the state unless and until the commissioner finds that the state no longer has use for it. Number plates belonging to the state shall be under the control of the commissioner.

5. No person shall knowingly authorize or permit a number plate issued for a motor vehicle or trailer owned and registered by him to be displayed on any motor vehicle or trailer other than a motor vehicle or trailer to which such number plate has been assigned by the commissioner, or upon which such number plate may legally be displayed under a temporary certificate of registration issued by a dealer under the provisions of section four hundred twenty of this chapter.

6. No owner shall knowingly cause or permit a vehicle owned by him to be operated, driven or parked upon the public highways of this state in violation of this section. Any violation of this section that occurs while a motor vehicle is parked on the public highways of this state shall constitute a parking violation.

7. 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.

8. The violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than two hundred dollars.

# North Carolina

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-63. Registration plates furnished by Division; requirements; replacement of regular plates with First in Flight plates, First in Freedom plates, or National/State Mottos plates; surrender and reissuance; displaying; preservation and cleaning; alteration or concealment of numbers; commission contracts for issuance

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**(a)** The Division upon registering a vehicle shall issue to the owner one registration plate for a motorcycle, trailer or semitrailer and for every other motor vehicle. Registration plates issued by the Division under this Article shall be and remain the property of the State, and it shall be lawful for the Commissioner or his duly authorized agents to summarily take possession of any plate or plates which he has reason to believe is being illegally used, and to keep in his possession such plate or plates pending investigation and legal disposition of the same. Whenever the Commissioner finds that any registration plate issued for any vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this Article has become illegible or is in such a condition that the numbers thereon may not be readily distinguished, he may require that such registration plate, and its companion when there are two registration plates, be surrendered to the Division. When said registration plate or plates are so surrendered to the Division, a new registration plate or plates shall be issued in lieu thereof without charge. The owner of any vehicle who receives notice to surrender illegible plate or plates on which the numbers are not readily distinguishable and who willfully refuses to surrender said plates to the Division shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**(b)** Every license plate must display the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina, which may be abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of expiration. A plate issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in [G.S. 20-4.2\(1\)](#), and weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in [G.S. 20-79.4](#) or the commercial vehicle is a trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted," unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in [G.S. 20-79.4](#).

A registration plate issued by the Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for 6,000 pounds or less shall be, at the option of the owner, either (i) a "First in Flight" plate, (ii) a "First in Freedom" plate, or (iii) a "National/State Mottos" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First in Flight" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The background of the "First in Flight" plate shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk Beach, with the plane flying slightly upward and to the right. A "First in Freedom" plate shall have the words "First in Freedom" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The background of the "First in Freedom" plate may include an image chosen by the Division that is representative of the Mecklenburg Declaration of 1775 or the Halifax Resolves of 1776. A "National/State Mottos" plate shall have in words the motto of the United States "In God We Trust" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals and have in words the State motto "To Be Rather Than To Seem". The background of the "National/State Mottos" plate shall include an image chosen by the Division that is representative of the American Flag.

**(b1)** The following special registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight" plate, "First in Freedom" plate, or "National/State Mottos" plate as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The design of the plates that are not "First in Flight" plates, "First in Freedom" plates, or "National/State Mottos" plate must be developed in accordance with [G.S. 20-79.4\(a3\)](#). For special plates authorized in [G.S. 20-79.7](#) on or after July 1, 2013, the Division may not issue the plate on a background under this subsection unless it receives the required number of applications set forth in [G.S. 20-79.3A\(a\)](#).

**(1)** Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**(2)** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

**(3)** Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

**(4)** Friends of the Appalachian Trail.

**(5)** NC Coastal Federation.

**(6)** In God We Trust.

**(7)** Stock Car Racing Theme.

**(8)** Buddy Pelletier Surfing Foundation.

**(9)** Guilford Battleground Company.

**(10)** National Wild Turkey Federation.

**(11)** North Carolina Aquarium Society.

**(12)** First in Forestry.

**(13)** North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

- (14) NC Trout Unlimited.
- (15) Ducks Unlimited.
- (16) Lung Cancer Research -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (17) NC State Parks.
- (18) Support Our Troops.
- (19) US Equine Rescue League -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (20) Fox Hunting -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (21) Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (22) Hospice Care -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (23) Home Care and Hospice.
- (24) NC Tennis Foundation.
- (25) AIDS Awareness -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (26) Donate Life.
- (27) Farmland Preservation -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (28) Travel and Tourism -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (29) Battle of Kings Mountain.
- (30) NC Civil War -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (31) North Carolina Zoological Society.
- (32) United States Service Academy.
- (33) Carolina Raptor Center -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (34) Carolinas Credit Union Foundation -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (35) North Carolina State Flag -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (36) NC Mining -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (37) Coastal Land Trust.
- (38) **ARTS NC.**
- (39) Choose Life.
- (40) North Carolina Green Industry Council -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (41) NC Horse Council.
- (42) Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center.
- (43) Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Inc.
- (44) Native Brook Trout.
- (45) Red Drum -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (46) S.T.A.R. -- Expired July 1, 2016.
- (47) Alpha Phi Alpha.
- (48) Reserved.
- (49) Carolina Panthers.
- (50) NC Surveyors.
- (51) North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.
- (52) Save the Honey Bee (SB).
- (53) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.
- (54) Pisgah Conservancy.
- (55) Colorectal Cancer Awareness.
- (56) Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament.
- (57) Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

(c) Such registration plate and the required numerals thereon, except the year number for which issued, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight.

(d) Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be attached thereto, one in the front and the other in the rear: Provided, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle other than a truck-tractor, said registration plate shall be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle. The registration plate issued for a truck-tractor shall be attached to the front thereof. Provided further, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle and this motor vehicle is transporting a substance that may adhere to the plate so as to cover or discolor the plate or if the motor vehicle has a mechanical loading device that may damage the plate, the registration plate may be attached to the front of the motor vehicle.

Any motor vehicle of the age of 35 years or more from the date of manufacture may bear the license plates of the year of manufacture instead of the current registration plates, if the current registration plates are maintained within the vehicle and produced upon the request of any person.

The Division shall provide registered owners of motorcycles and property hauling motorcycle trailers attached to the rear of motorcycles with suitably reduced size registration plates, approximately four by seven inches in size, that are issued on a multiyear basis in accordance with [G.S. 20-88\(c\)](#), or on an annual basis as otherwise provided in this Chapter.

**(e) Preservation and Cleaning of Registration Plates.** -- It shall be the duty of each and every registered owner of a motor vehicle to keep the registration plates assigned to such motor vehicle reasonably clean and free from dust and dirt, and such registered owner, or any person in his employ, or who operates such motor vehicle by his authority, shall, upon the request of any proper officer, immediately clean such registration plates so that the numbers thereon may be readily distinguished, and any person who shall neglect or refuse to so clean a registration plate, after having been requested to do so, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

**(f) Operating with False Numbers.** -- Any person who shall willfully operate a motor vehicle with a registration plate which has been repainted or altered or forged shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**(g) Alteration, Disguise, or Concealment of Numbers.** -- Any operator of a motor vehicle who shall willfully mutilate, bend, twist, cover or cause to be covered or partially covered by any bumper, light, spare tire, tire rack, strap, or other device, or who shall paint, enamel, emboss, stamp, print, perforate, or alter or add to or cut off any part or portion of a registration plate or the figures or letters thereon, or who shall place or deposit or cause to be placed or deposited any oil, grease, or other substance upon such registration plates for the purpose of making dust adhere thereto, or who shall deface, disfigure, change, or attempt to change any letter or figure thereon, or who shall display a number plate in other than a horizontal upright position, shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. Any operator of a motor vehicle who shall willfully cover or cause to be covered any part or portion of a registration plate or the figures or letters thereon by any device designed or intended to prevent or interfere with the taking of a clear photograph of a registration plate by a traffic control or toll collection system using cameras commits an infraction and shall be penalized under [G.S. 14-3.1](#). Any operator of a motor vehicle who shall otherwise intentionally cover any number or registration renewal sticker on a registration plate with any material that makes the number or registration renewal sticker illegible commits an infraction and shall be penalized under [G.S. 14-3.1](#). 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](#).

**(h) Commission Contracts for Issuance of Plates and Certificates.** -- All registration plates, registration certificates, and certificates of title issued by the Division, outside of those issued from the office of the Division located in Wake, Cumberland, or Mecklenburg Counties and those issued and handled through the United States mail, shall be issued insofar as practicable and possible through commission contracts entered into by the Division for the issuance of the plates and certificates in localities throughout North Carolina, including military installations within this State, with persons, firms, corporations or governmental subdivisions of the State of North Carolina. The Division shall make a reasonable effort in every locality, except as noted above, to enter into a commission contract for the issuance of the plates and certificates and a record of these efforts shall be maintained in the Division. In the event the Division is unsuccessful in making commission contracts, it shall issue the plates and certificates through the regular employees of the Division. Whenever registration plates, registration certificates, and certificates of title are issued by the Division through commission contract arrangements, the Division shall provide proper supervision of the distribution. Nothing contained in this subsection allows or permits the operation of fewer outlets in any county in this State than are now being operated.

The terms of a commission contract entered under this subsection shall specify the duration of the contract and either include or incorporate by reference standards by which the Division may supervise and evaluate the performance of the commission contractor. The duration of an initial commission contract may not exceed eight years and the duration of a renewal commission contract may not exceed two years. The Division may award monetary performance bonuses, not to exceed an aggregate total of ninety thousand dollars (\$ 90,000) annually, to commission contractors based on their performance.

The amount of compensation payable to a commission contractor is determined on a per transaction basis. The collection of the highway use tax and the removal of an inspection stop are each considered a separate transaction for which one dollar and thirty cents (\$ 1.30) compensation shall be paid. The issuance of a limited registration "T" sticker and the collection of property tax are each considered a separate transaction for which compensation at the rate of one dollar and thirty cents (\$ 1.30) and one dollar and eight cents (\$ 1.08) respectively, shall be paid by counties and municipalities as a cost of the combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system. The performance at the same time of one or more of the transactions below is considered a single transaction for which one dollar and forty-six cents (\$ 1.46) compensation shall be paid:

- (1) Issuance of a registration plate, a registration card, a registration sticker, or a certificate of title.
- (2) Issuance of a handicapped placard or handicapped identification card.

- (3) Acceptance of an application for a personalized registration plate.
- (4) Acceptance of a surrendered registration plate, registration card, or registration renewal sticker, or acceptance of an affidavit stating why a person cannot surrender a registration plate, registration card, or registration renewal sticker.
- (5) Cancellation of a title because the vehicle has been junked.
- (6) Acceptance of an application for, or issuance of, a refund for a fee or a tax, other than the highway use tax.
- (7) Receipt of the civil penalty imposed by [G.S. 20-311](#) for a lapse in financial responsibility or receipt of the restoration fee imposed by that statute.
- (8) Acceptance of a notice of failure to maintain financial responsibility for a motor vehicle.
- (8a) Collection of civil penalties imposed for violations of [G.S. 20-183.8A](#).

(8b), (9) Repealed by Session Laws [2013-372, s. 2\(a\)](#)

- (10) Acceptance of a temporary lien filing.
- (11) Conversion of an existing paper title to an electronic lien upon request of a primary lienholder.
- (h1) Commission contracts entered into by the Division under this subsection shall also provide for the payment of an additional one dollar (\$ 1.00) of compensation to commission contract agents for any transaction assessed a fee under subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(7), (a)(8), or (a)(9) of [G.S. 20-85](#).
- (h2) Upon the closing of the only contract license plate agency in a county, the Division shall as soon as practicable designate a temporary location for the issuance of all registration plates, registration certificates, and certificates of title issued by the Division for that county. The designation shall be posted at the former agency location for not less than 30 days and shall include the street address and telephone number of the temporary location. A former contract agent shall allow the posting of this required notice at the former location for a period of not less than 30 days. A failure to comply with the posting requirements of this section by a former contract agent shall be a Class 3 misdemeanor.
- (i) **Electronic Applications and Collections.** -- The Division shall accept electronic applications for the issuance of registration plates, registration certificates, and certificates of title, and is authorized to electronically collect fees from online motor vehicle registration vendors under contract with the Division.
- (j) The Division shall contract with at least two online motor vehicle registration vendors which may enter into contracts with motor vehicle dealers to complete and file Division required documents for the issuance of a certificate of title, registration plate, or registration card or a duplicate certificate of title, registration plate, or registration card for a motor vehicle, upon purchase or sale of a vehicle.
- (k) Commission contract agents are authorized to enter into contracts with online motor vehicle registration vendors which are under contract with the Division to complete and file Division required documents for the issuance of a certificate of title, registration plate, or registration card or a duplicate certificate of title, registration plate, or registration card for a motor vehicle.

# North Dakota

## N.D. Cent. Code § 39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs.

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Unless otherwise provided by law, an individual may not operate a vehicle on a public highway of this state unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to the vehicle by the department, and two number plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except number plates assigned to a housetrailer must be attached to the rear of the housetrailer. Number plates assigned to a motorcycle or trailer must be attached to the rear of the motorcycle or trailer and may be displayed vertically. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle registered under the international registration plan as authorized in [section 39-19-04](#), truck tractor, or semitrailer, the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate must be mounted in a visible manner that clearly displays the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle and the name of the state on the plate. As far as is reasonably possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice, or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license plates issued by the department are the property of the department for the period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of number plates.



# Ohio

## Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4503.21 Display of license plates and validation stickers or temporary placard or windshield sticker.

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**(A)**

**(1)** No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the rear of the motor vehicle a license plate that displays the distinctive number and registration mark assigned to the motor vehicle by the director of public safety, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker issued under [sections 4503.19](#) and [4503.191 of the Revised Code](#), shall display the license plate and validation sticker on the front of the commercial tractor.

except that a commercial tractor

**(2)** The license plate shall be securely fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any material that obstructs its visibility.

**(3)** No person to whom a temporary license placard or windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor vehicle under [section 4503.182 of the Revised Code](#), and no operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered by any material that obstructs its visibility.

**(B)** Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**(C)** The offense established under division (A) of this section is a strict liability offense and [section 2901.20 of the Revised Code](#) does not apply. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

# Oklahoma

## Okla. Stat. tit. 47, § 1113. Certificate of Registration, License Plates and Decals – Permanent Plates – Requirements

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### A.

1. Except for all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles and motorcycles used exclusively off roads and highways, upon the filing of a registration application and the payment of the fees provided for in the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, the Oklahoma Tax Commission or Corporation Commission, as applicable, shall assign to the vehicle described in the application a distinctive number, and issue to the owner of the vehicle a certificate of registration, one license plate and a yearly decal. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall assign an all-terrain vehicle, utility vehicle or motorcycle used exclusively off roads and highways a distinctive number and issue to the owner a certificate of registration and a decal but not a license plate. For each subsequent registration year, the Tax Commission shall issue a yearly decal to be affixed to the license plate, except for an all-terrain vehicle, utility vehicle or motorcycle used exclusively off roads and highways. The initial decal for an all-terrain vehicle, utility vehicle or motorcycle shall be attached to the front of the vehicle and shall be in clear view. The decal shall be on the front or on the front fork of the motorcycle used exclusively off roads and highways and the decal shall be in clear view. The yearly decal shall have an identification number and the last two numbers of the registration year for which it shall expire. Except as provided by Section 1113A of this title, the license plate shall be affixed to the exterior of the vehicle until a replacement license plate is applied for. If the owner applies for a replacement license plate, the Tax Commission shall charge the fee provided for in Section 1114 of this title. The yearly decal will validate the license plate for each registration period other than the year the license plate is issued. The license plate and decal shall be of such size, color, design and numbering as the Tax Commission may direct. However, yearly decals issued to the owner of a vehicle who has filed an affidavit with the appropriate motor license agent in accordance with Section 7-607 of this title shall be a separate and distinct color from all other decals issued under this section. Before the effective date of this act, the Tax Commission shall also issue a monthly decal which shall include a two-letter abbreviation corresponding to the county in which the vehicle is registered. The Tax Commission shall issue all decals in the possession of the Tax Commission on the effective date of this act before issuing any decals which do not contain the county abbreviation.

2. 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.

3. Upon payment of the annual registration fee provided in Section 1133 of this title, the Tax Commission or Corporation Commission, as applicable, or a motor license agent may issue a permanent nonexpiring license plate to an owner of one hundred or more commercial motor vehicles and for vehicles registered under the provisions of Section 1120 of this title. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the Tax Commission or Corporation Commission shall issue a certificate of registration that shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued. Provided, if the registrant submits its application through electronic means, such qualified owners of one hundred or more commercial motor vehicles, properly registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 1133 of this title, may elect to receive a permanent certificate of registration that shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

4. Every vehicle owned by an agency of this state shall be exempt from the payment of registration fees required by this title. Provided, such vehicle shall be registered and shall otherwise comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act.

**B.** The license plates required under the provisions of this title shall conform to the requirements and specifications listed hereinafter:

1. Each license plate shall have a space for the placement of the yearly decals for each succeeding year of registration after the initial issue;

2. The provisions of the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act regarding the issuance of yearly decals shall not apply to the issuance of apportioned license plates, including license plates for state vehicles, and exempt plates for governmental entities and fire departments organized pursuant to [Section 592 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes](#);

3. All license plates and decals shall be made with reflectorized material as a background to the letters, numbers and characters displayed thereon. The reflectorized material shall be of such a nature as to provide effective and dependable brightness during the service period for which the license plate or decal is issued;

4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for all state vehicles. Such license plates shall be permanent in nature and designed in such manner as to remain with the vehicle for the duration of the vehicle's life span or until the title is transferred to a nongovernmental owner;

5. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The license plates shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK" and shall contain the letters "OHP" followed by the state seal and the badge number of the Highway Patrol officer to whom the vehicle is assigned. The words "Oklahoma Highway Patrol" shall also be included on such license plates;

6. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of the Oklahoma Military Department. Such license plates shall have the legend "Oklahoma OK" and shall contain the letters "OMD" followed by the state seal and three numbers or letters as designated by the Adjutant General. The words "Oklahoma Military Department" shall also be included on such license plates;

7. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Tax Commission shall design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Such license plates shall contain the letters "DOC" followed by the Department of Corrections badge and three numbers or letters or combination of both as designated by the Director of the agency. The words "Department of Corrections" shall also be included on such license plates; and

8. Within the limits prescribed in this section, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department shall design any license plates required by the initiation of a license plate reissuance by the Oklahoma Tax Commission at the request of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the provisions of Section 1113.2 of this title. Any such new designs shall be submitted by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to the Department of Public Safety for its approval prior to being issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

C. Where the applicant has satisfactorily shown that the applicant owns the vehicle sought to be registered but is unable to produce documentary evidence of the ownership, a license plate may be issued upon approval by the Tax Commission or Corporation Commission, as applicable. In such instances the reason for not issuing a certificate of title shall be indicated on the receipt given to the applicant. It shall still be the duty of the applicant to immediately take all necessary steps to obtain the Oklahoma certificate of title and it shall be unlawful for the applicant to sell the vehicle until the certificate has been obtained in the applicant's name.

D. The certificate of registration provided for in this section shall be in convenient form, and the certificate of registration, or a certified copy or photostatic copy thereof, duly authenticated by the Tax Commission or Corporation Commission, as applicable, shall be carried at all times in or upon all vehicles so registered, in such manner as to permit a ready examination thereof upon demand by any peace officer of the state or duly authorized employee of the Department of Public Safety. Any such officer or agent may seize and hold such vehicle when the operator of the same does not have the registration certificate in the operator's possession or when any such officer or agent determines that the registration certificate has been obtained by misrepresentation of any essential or material fact or when any number or identifying information appearing on such certificate has been changed, altered, obliterated or concealed in any way, until the proper registration or identification of such vehicle has been made or produced by the owner thereof.

E. The purchaser of a new or used manufactured home shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of purchase, register the home with the Tax Commission or a motor license agent pursuant to the provisions of Section 1117 of this title. For a new manufactured home, it shall be the responsibility of the dealer selling the home to place a temporary license plate on the home in the same manner as provided in Section 1128 of this title for other new motor vehicles. For the first year that any manufactured home is registered in this state, the Tax Commission shall issue a metal license plate which shall be affixed to the manufactured home. The temporary dealer license plate or the metal license plate shall be displayed on the manufactured home at all times when upon a public roadway; provided, a repossession affidavit issued pursuant to Sections 1110 and 1126 of this title shall be permissible in lieu of a current license plate and decal for the purposes of removing a repossessed manufactured home to a secure location. Manufactured homes previously registered and subject to ad valorem taxation as provided by law shall have a decal affixed at the time ad valorem taxes are paid for such manufactured home; provided, for a manufactured home permanently affixed to real estate, no decal or license plate shall be required to be affixed and the owner thereof shall be given a receipt upon payment of ad valorem taxes due on the home. The Tax Commission shall make sufficient plates and decals available to the various motor license agents of the state in order for an owner of a manufactured home to acquire the plate or decal. A one-dollar fee shall be charged for issuance of any plate or decal. The fee shall be apportioned each month to the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury.

F. The decal shall be easily visible for purposes of verification by a county assessor that the manufactured home is properly assessed for ad valorem taxation. In the first year of registration, a decal shall be issued for placement on the license plate indicating payment of applicable registration fees and excise taxes. A duplicate manufactured home registration decal shall be affixed inside the window nearest the front door of the manufactured home. In the second and all subsequent years for which the manufactured home is subject to ad valorem taxation, an annual decal shall be affixed inside the window nearest the front door as evidence of payment of ad valorem taxes. The Tax Commission shall issue decals to the various county treasurers of the state in order for a manufactured home owner to obtain such decal each year. Upon presentation of a valid ad valorem tax receipt, the manufactured home owner shall be issued the annual decal.

**G.** Upon the registration of a manufactured home in this state for the first time or upon discovery of a manufactured home previously registered within this state for which the information required by this subsection is not known, the Tax Commission shall obtain:

- 1.** The name of the owner of the manufactured home;
- 2.** The serial number or identification number of the manufactured home;
- 3.** A legal description or address of the location for the home;
- 4.** The actual retail selling price of the manufactured home excluding Oklahoma taxes;
- 5.** The certificate of title number for the home; and
- 6.** Any other information which the Tax Commission deems to be necessary.

The application for registration shall also include the school district in which the manufactured home is located or is to be located. The information shall be entered into a computer data system which shall be used by the Tax Commission to provide information to county assessors upon request by the assessor. The assessor may request any information from the system in order to properly assess a manufactured home for ad valorem taxation.

# Oregon

## Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 803.550 Illegal alteration or display of plates; penalty.

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**(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.
- (b)** Causes a registration plate to be illegally displayed as described in subsection (3) of this section.
- (c)** Operates any vehicle that is displaying a registration plate that is illegally altered in a manner described in subsection (2) of this section or that is illegally displayed as described in subsection (3) of this section.
- (d)** Owns and causes or permits a vehicle to display a registration plate that is illegally altered in a manner described in subsection (2) of this section or that is 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:

- (a)** Any change of the color, configuration, numbers, letters or material of the plate.
  - (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.
- (3)** A registration plate is illegally displayed for purposes of this section if the plate:
- (a)** Is displayed on a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the plate was issued; or
  - (b)** Displays registration stickers that contain an expiration date that is different from the expiration date shown upon the vehicle registration records of the Department of Transportation.

**(4)** Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to the following:

- (a)** Any placement of registration stickers described under [ORS 803.555](#).
- (b)** Any public official who displays or performs any alteration of a registration plate in the course of official duties.
- (c)** Any special interest registration plate approved under [ORS 805.210](#).

**(5)** Subsection (3)(a) of this section does not apply to a vehicle dealer authorized to use and operate vehicles displaying the dealer's plates under [ORS 822.040](#).

**(6)** A person does not commit the offense of illegal alteration or illegal display of a registration plate if, at the time the conduct described in subsection (3)(b) of this section occurs, the person has proof of registration of the vehicle but has not yet received new registration stickers from the department. The proof of vehicle registration is valid 30 days from the date of issuance. The department shall adopt rules regarding what constitutes proof of vehicle registration under this subsection.

**(7)** The court shall dismiss any charge under this section if, prior to the court appearance date listed on the citation, the person charged delivers to the clerk of the court named on the citation proof of registration of the vehicle at the time of the violation.

**(8)** The offense described in this section, illegal alteration or illegal display of a registration plate, is a Class B traffic violation.

# Pennsylvania

## 75 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann § 1332. Display of registration plate

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**(a) General rule.** — Every registration plate shall, at all times, be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned or on which its use is authorized in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department.

**(a.1) Motorcycle registration plate.**

**(1)** A registration plate issued for a motorcycle may be mounted on the motorcycle in a vertical manner if:

**(i)** the identifying characters on the plate are displayed in a vertical alignment; and

**(ii)** the mounting complies with all other provisions of this section.

**(2)** A registration plate that has its identifying characters displayed horizontally shall not be displayed and mounted vertically.

**(3)** The department shall produce a registration plate for motorcycles which displays the identifying characters on the plate in a vertical alignment. The department shall issue such a plate upon request and upon payment of a fee of \$ 20, which shall be in addition to the annual registration fee.

**(4)** No later than January 1, 2016, the department shall report to the chairman and minority chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives on the number of motorcycle registration plates issued in a vertical alignment, the cost of issuance and any required revision to the fee so as to maintain necessary financial support for the highway system in this Commonwealth.

**(b) 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 any other automated enforcement system authorized by this title or an electronic toll collection system as authorized under [74 Pa.C.S. § 8117](#) (relating to toll collection);

**(3)** is otherwise illegible at a reasonable distance or is obscured in any manner ; or

**(4)** is obscured, covered or otherwise obstructed in a manner which inhibits the visibility of the issuing jurisdiction at a reasonable distance.

**(c) Penalty for obscured plate.**— Any person who violates subsection (b)(2) or (4) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$100.

# Puerto Rico

## 9 L.P.R.A. § 5044. Unlawful acts and penalties

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It shall be unlawful to carry out any of the following acts:

- (a)** To drive a motor vehicle or haul a trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways of Puerto Rico when such vehicle, motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer is not authorized by the Secretary to travel thereon. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and if convicted, shall be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).
- (b)** To drive a motor vehicle or haul a trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways while engaged in a use for which a type of license, authorization or provisional license is required, different from those granted by this chapter and its regulation, as the case may be. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor, and if convicted shall be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).
- (c)** To drive a motor vehicle or haul a trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways without carrying a copy of its license, or the documents or stickers, which in lieu of said license, authorize such vehicle to travel on the public highways. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).
- (d)** To drive a motor vehicle or haul a trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways without displaying the license plates legibly. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and shall be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).
- (e)** To drive a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer whose fees are due pursuant to the vehicle registry and license renewal system established by the Secretary through regulations to such effects. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and shall be sanctioned with a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25) during the thirty (30) days following the expiration date for the payment of said fees or two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) after said term.
- (f)** To supply false information to the Secretary or to conceal information for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining any of the types of licenses granted by virtue of this chapter and its regulations, or for the purpose of deceivingly registering the transfer or processing of any of the procedures provided in this chapter and its regulations, regarding the ownership of motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers or to the way these shall be used on the public highways. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and shall be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (g)** To intentionally erase or alter the information contained in any license certificate for motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers or in any document that certifies granting an authorization to a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer to operate on the public highways, or in any of the documents necessary to obtain said license or authorization, as well to add information to said certificates or documents. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and if convicted, shall be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (h)** To fix the license plate of a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer issued by virtue of this chapter and its regulations on any other motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer not authorized to bear the same. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (i)** To steal or mutilate, alter or cover motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer license plates issued by virtue of this chapter and its regulations while its use is authorized or required by this chapter and its regulations. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and if convicted shall be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (j)** To drive a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways with an altered identification license plate which has been covered or is not clearly visible. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).
- (k)** To enable unauthorized persons to receive any license certificate of motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers, or any document authorizing a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer to travel on the public highways, or give a specific use to such a license certificate or aforementioned documents under the authority of this chapter and of §§ 1001 et seq. of Title 27, known as the "Puerto Rico Public Service Act", or its regulations, so that such documents may be used fraudulently for identification of another motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and if convicted shall be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (l)** To enable unauthorized persons to obtain license plates exclusively issued to a specific type of motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer so that the same may be fixed in another motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer that has not been authorized to travel on the public highways. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and shall be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (m)** To erase, alter or cover the serial or identification number on the motor or body of a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a felony and if convicted shall be punished with a fixed term of imprisonment of one (1) year and eight (8) months. Should aggravating circumstances exist, the established fixed penalty



may be increased for up to a maximum of three (3) years; should extenuating circumstances exist the penalty may be reduced for up to a minimum of one (1) year and three (3) months.

**(n)** To commit felonious misappropriation of any certificate or document related to the regular license or provisional permit of a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer issued pursuant to this chapter and to §§ 1001 et seq. of Title 27, known as the "Puerto Rico Public Service Act", or its regulations, when the contents of such documents are in effect and in force. Any person convicted of violating this provision shall incur a misdemeanor and be punished with a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

**(o)** Failure of the seller of a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer to register the same with the Department within fifteen (15) days after the date of the sale, when the seller is a person engaged in the sale of motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

**(p)** Failure to process the transfer within the term of ten (10) days as required by § 5035 of this title. Any person who acquires a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer and violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).

**(q)** Failure to return the license plates of any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer no longer in use as such by its owner or disposed of as junk, as provided in § 5014 of this title, or whose return has been demanded by the Secretary because the motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer is not no longer authorized to travel on the public highways, or when such licenses have been revoke or suspended. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50), in addition to the payment of any pending lien or fine.

**(r)** To drive a motor vehicle or haul any trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways with a suspended, revoked or expired license. Any person who violates this provision shall incur a felony and if convicted, shall be punished with a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100). Any person who violates this provision, and who had already been sanctioned for the same, shall incur a misdemeanor and if convicted shall be punished with a fine of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) or of more than five hundred dollars (\$500). Any person who has to move a motor vehicle from its location and whose license has expired may do so through an Internal Revenue voucher of fifteen dollars (\$15) of which five dollars (\$5) shall be destined for the Compulsory Insurance, five dollars (\$5) for the Automobile Accident Compensation Administration and five dollars (\$5) for DISCO. Said provisional license shall be valid for three (3) days and may only be used for the purpose of moving the motor vehicle from its location to the inspection center or auto repair shop.

**(s)** To display on the motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer exterior other number license plates than those authorized in this chapter, with the exception of those granted by the Commission or authorized by other applicable laws or their regulations. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be sanctioned with a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

**(t)** To drive a heavy motor vehicle, except a tractor or van trailer, on the public highways without displaying on both sides of the vehicle its unloaded weight and its maximum load capacity. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and shall be punished with a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).

**(u)** To drive a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer on the public highways with special plates for a period longer than that authorized in this chapter. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be sanctioned with a fine of twenty dollars (\$25).

**(v)** To drive a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer without carrying its license once thirty (30) days have elapsed after the dealer or financial institution has registered said vehicle with the Department. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be punished with a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25). Public service vehicles may travel with the authorization to substitute [sic] that had been issued by the Public Service Commission until final processing of the substitution.

**(w)** To keep any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer whose permit or license has expired parked along the public highways. Any person who violates this provision shall incur an administrative fault and be sanctioned with a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75). Furthermore, said vehicle shall be removed from the public highway in accordance with the regulations provided to such effects by the Department and the Puerto Rico Police. The owner of a vehicle thus removed may recover the same, upon payment of storage, removal or towing expenses and of the fine provided herein.

**(x)** To conduct the graphic or advertising reproduction by computer or by any other technology, of the symbols issued by the Secretary for identifying motor vehicles and trailers. Any person who violates this provisions shall incur an administrative fault and be sanctioned with a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200).



# Rhode Island

## R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-3-18. Display of plates -- Penalties

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**(a)** Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, trailer, transporter vehicle, in-transit vehicle, or a bailee engaged in a business as defined in [§ 31-1-17\(a\)](#), or other than a motor vehicle owned by a duly authorized dealer in motor vehicles and which is used in the dealer's business shall be attached thereto one in the front and the other in the rear. The registration plate issued for a motorcycle, trailer, bailee, or a dealer's motor vehicle as defined in this subsection shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

**(b)** 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.

**(c) Penalties.** Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine as enumerated in [§ 31-41.1-4](#).

**(d)** All vehicles registered as passenger, commercial, trailer, motorcycle, suburban, farm, combination, taxi, radio operator, camper, public, racer tow, jitney, and antique must have displayed on them the registration plate(s) as described in [§ 31-3-11](#). This subsection does not apply to those registrants in possession of an alternative design plate as described in [§ 31-3-60](#) or any other specially authorized plate described in this chapter.

# South Carolina

## S.C. Code Ann. § 56-3-1240. Display of license plates; motorcycles equipped with vertically mounted brackets; missing plates.

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License plates issued for motor vehicles must be attached to the outside rear of the vehicle, open to view. However, on truck tractors and road tractors the plates must be attached to the outside front of the vehicle provided that single unit commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds may have the license plate on either the outside front or rear of the vehicle. Every license plate, at all times, must be fastened securely in a horizontal and upright position to the vehicle for which it was issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. However, if a motorcycle is equipped with vertically mounted license plate brackets, its license plate must be mounted vertically with its top fastened along the right vertical edge. The bottom of the plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches from the ground in a place and position clearly visible as provided in [Section 56-5-4530](#), and it must be maintained free from foreign materials and in a clearly legible condition. 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. A motor vehicle owner may attach a trailer hitch to a motor vehicle provided the hitch does not obscure more than two inches of the license plate issued to the motor vehicle. It is unlawful to operate or drive a motor vehicle with the license plate missing and a person who is convicted for violating this section must be punished as provided by [Section 56-3-2520](#).

# South Dakota

## S.D. Codified Laws § 32-5-98. Numbering requirements for operation of motor vehicles — Display — Removal of prior licensing information — Class 2 misdemeanor.

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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. The motorcycle plate may be mounted in any visible manner other than upside down. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

# Tennessee

## Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-110. Display of registration plates -- Manner -- Penalty for violation.

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(a) The registration plate issued for passenger motor vehicles shall be attached on the rear of the vehicle. The registration plate issued for those trucks with a manufacturer's ton rating not exceeding three-quarter (3/4) ton and having a panel or pickup body style, and also those issued for all motor homes, regardless of ton rating or body style thereof, shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The registration plate issued for all other trucks and truck tractors shall be attached to the front of the vehicle. All dealers' plates, as provided in [§ 55-4-226](#), and those registration plates issued for motorcycles, trailers or semitrailers shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

(b) Every registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which it is issued so to prevent the plate from swinging and 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; provided, if a motorcycle is equipped with vertically mounted license plate brackets, its license plate shall be mounted vertically with the top of such license plate fastened along the right vertical edge. No tinted materials may be placed over a license plate even if the information upon the license plate is not concealed.

(c)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2), for all motor vehicles that are factory-equipped to illuminate the registration plate, the registration plate shall be illuminated at all times that headlights are illuminated.

(2) Subdivision (c)(1) shall not apply to any antique motor vehicle as defined in [§ 55-4-111\(b\)](#).

(d)

(1) As used in this subsection (d), "historic military vehicle" means a vehicle, including a trailer, that is at least twenty-five (25) years old at the time of making application for registration, was manufactured for use in any country's military forces, and is maintained to represent the vehicle's military design and markings, regardless of the vehicle's size or weight.

(2) An owner or operator of a historic military vehicle is not required to display the vehicle's registration plate on the vehicle in accordance with this section. In lieu of such display, the owner or operator shall maintain the vehicle's registration plate in the vehicle and produce the plate for inspection upon the request of any law enforcement officer.

(e)

(1) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor. All proceeds from the fines imposed by this subsection (e) shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) A person charged with a violation of this section may, in lieu of appearance in court, submit a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) for a first violation, and twenty dollars (\$20.00) on second and subsequent violations to the clerk of the court that has jurisdiction of the offense within the county in which the offense charged is alleged to have been committed.

(3) If the violation of this section results solely from the failure to illuminate the registration plate at all times headlights are required to be displayed, the fine set out in this subsection (e) shall be the only amount the person is assessed. No litigation tax levied pursuant to title 67, chapter 4, part 6 shall be imposed or assessed against anyone convicted of a violation of this section nor shall any clerk's fee or court costs, including, but not limited to, any statutory fees of officers, be imposed or assessed against anyone convicted of a violation of this section. Further, the lighting violation described in this subdivision (e)(3) shall be considered a nonmoving traffic violation and no points shall be added to a driver's record for such violation.

# Texas

## Tex. Transp. Code § 504.945. Wrong, Fictitious, Altered, or Obscured License Plate.

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- (a) A person commits an offense if the person attaches to or displays on a motor vehicle a license plate that:
- (1) is issued for a different motor vehicle;
  - (2) is issued for the vehicle under any other motor vehicle law other than by the department;
  - (3) is assigned for a registration period other than the registration period in effect;
  - (4) is fictitious;
  - (5) has blurring or reflective matter that significantly impairs the readability of the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered or the letters or numbers of the license plate number at any time;
  - (6) has an attached illuminated device or sticker, decal, emblem, or other insignia that is not authorized by law and that interferes with the readability of the letters or numbers of the license plate number or the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered; or
  - (7) has a coating, covering, protective substance, or other material that:
    - (A) distorts angular visibility or detectability;
    - (B) alters or obscures one-half or more of the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered; or
    - (C) alters or obscures the letters or numbers of the license plate number or the color of the plate.
- (b) Except as provided by Subsection (e), an offense under Subsection (a) is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$200, unless it is shown at the trial of the offense that the owner knowingly altered or made illegible the letters, numbers, and other identification marks, in which case the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) Subsection (a)(7) may not be construed to apply to:
- (1) a trailer hitch installed on a vehicle in a normal or customary manner;
  - (2) a transponder, as defined by Section 228.057, that is attached to a vehicle in the manner required by the issuing authority;
  - (3) a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier that is attached to a vehicle in a normal or customary manner;
  - (4) a trailer being towed by a vehicle; or
  - (5) a bicycle or motorcycle rack that is attached to a vehicle in a normal or customary manner.
- (d) A court may dismiss a charge brought under Subsection (a)(3), (5), (6), or (7) if the defendant:
- (1) remedies the defect before the defendant's first court appearance;
  - (2) pays a fine not to exceed \$10; and
  - (3) shows that the vehicle was issued a plate by the department that was attached to the vehicle, establishing that the vehicle was registered for the period during which the offense was committed.
- (e) An offense under Subsection (a)(4) is a Class B misdemeanor.

# Utah

## Utah Code Ann. § 41-1a-404. Location and position of plates — Visibility of plates — Exceptions.

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- (1)** License plates issued for a vehicle other than a motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be attached to the vehicle, one in the front and the other in the rear.
- (2)** The license plate issued for a motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be attached to the rear of the motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer.
- (3)** Except as provided in Subsection (5), a license plate shall at all times be:
  - (a)** securely fastened:
    - (i)** in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which it is issued to prevent the plate from swinging;
    - (ii)** at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate; and
    - (iii)** in a place and position to be clearly visible; and
  - (b)** maintained:
    - (i)** free from foreign materials; and
    - (ii)** in a condition to be clearly legible.
- (4)** Enforcement by a state or local law enforcement officer of the requirement under Subsection (1) to attach a license plate to the front of a vehicle shall be only as a secondary action when the vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation by any person in the vehicle of Title 41, Motor Vehicles, other than the requirement under Subsection (1) to attach a license plate to the front of the vehicle, or for another offense.
- (5)** The provisions of Subsections (3)(a)(iii) and (3)(b) do not apply to a license plate that is obscured exclusively by one or more of the following devices or by the cargo the device is carrying, if the device is installed according to manufacturer specifications or generally accepted installation practices:
  - (a)** a trailer hitch;
  - (b)** a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier;
  - (c)** a trailer being towed by the vehicle;
  - (d)** a bicycle rack, ski rack, or luggage rack; or
  - (e)** a similar cargo carrying device.
- (6)** A violation of this section is an infraction.

# Vermont

## Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 23, § 511. Manner of display

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**(a)** A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the Commissioner may require. Such number plates shall be furnished by the Commissioner and shall show the number assigned to such vehicle by the Commissioner. If only one number plate is furnished, the same shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle. If two are furnished, one shall be securely attached to the rear and one to the front of the vehicle. The number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. They shall be kept horizontal, shall be so fastened as not to swing, excepting however, there may be installed on a motor truck or truck tractor a device which would, upon contact with a substantial object, permit the rear number plate to swing toward the front of the vehicle, provided such device automatically returns the number plate to its original rigid position after contact is released, and the ground clearance of the lower edges thereof shall be established by the Commissioner pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

**(b)** A registration validation sticker shall be unobstructed, and shall be affixed as follows:

**(1)** for vehicles issued registration plates with dimensions of approximately 12 § 6 inches, in the lower right corner of the rear registration plate; and

**(2)** for vehicles issued a registration plate with a dimension of approximately 7 § 4 inches, in the upper right corner of the rear registration plate.

**(c)** A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless number plates and a validation sticker are displayed as provided in this section.

**(d)** An operator cited for violating subsection (c) of this section with respect to failure to display a validation sticker on a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$ 5.00, which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under [13 V.S.A. § 7282\(a\)](#), if he or she is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of the motor vehicle's registration.

# Virginia

## Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-715. Display of license plates.

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License plates assigned to a motor vehicle, other than a moped, motorcycle, autocycle, tractor truck, trailer, or semitrailer, or to persons licensed as motor vehicle dealers or transporters of unladen vehicles, shall be attached to the front and the rear of the vehicle. The license plate assigned to a moped, motorcycle, autocycle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The license plate assigned to a tractor truck shall be attached to the front of the vehicle. The license plates issued to licensed motor vehicle dealers and to persons licensed as transporters of unladen vehicles shall consist of one plate for each set issued and shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle to which it is assigned.

For any summons issued for a violation of this section, the court may, in its discretion, dismiss the summons, where proof of compliance with this section is provided to the court on or before the court date.

## Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-716. How license plates fastened to vehicle; altering appearance of license plates.

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A. Every license plate shall be securely fastened to the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to which it is assigned:

1. So as to prevent the plate from swinging,
2. In a position to be clearly visible, and
3. In a condition to be clearly legible.

B. 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.

C. The Superintendent may make such regulations as he may deem advisable to enforce the proper mounting and securing of the license plate on the vehicle.

D. For any summons issued for a violation of this section, the court may, in its discretion, dismiss the summons, where proof of compliance with this section is provided to the court on or before the court date.



# Washington

## Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 46.16A.200. License plates.

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**(1) Design.** All license plates may be obtained by the director from the metal working plant of a state correctional facility or from any source in accordance with existing state of Washington purchasing procedures. License plates:

- (a)** May vary in background, color, and design;
- (b)** Must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state license plate;
- (c)** Must designate the name of the state of Washington without abbreviation;
- (d)** Must be treated with fully reflectorized materials designed to increase visibility and legibility at night;
- (e)** Must be of a size and color and show the registration period as determined by the director; and
- (f)** Before July 1, 2010, may display a symbol or artwork approved by the former special license plate review board and the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2010, special license plate series approved by the department and enacted into law by the legislature may display a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

**(2) Exceptions to reflectorized materials.** License plates issued before January 1, 1968, are not required to be treated with reflectorized materials.

**(3) Dealer license plates.** License plates issued to a dealer must contain an indication that the license plates have been issued to a vehicle dealer.

**(4)**

**(a) Furnished.** The director shall furnish to all persons making satisfactory application for a vehicle registration:

- (i)** Two identical license plates each containing the license plate number; or
- (ii)** One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer, camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless carriage, or motorcycle.

**(b)** The director may adopt types of license plates to be used as long as the license plates are legible.

**(5)**

**(a) Display.** License plates must be:

- (i)** Attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle if two license plates have been issued;
  - (ii)** Attached to the rear of the vehicle if one license plate has been issued;
  - (iii)** Kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read at all times; and
  - (iv)** Attached in a horizontal position at a distance of not more than four feet from the ground.
- (b)** The Washington state patrol may grant exceptions to this subsection if the body construction of the vehicle makes compliance with this section impossible.

**(6) Change of license classification.** A person who has altered a vehicle that makes the current license plate or plates invalid for the vehicle's use shall:

**(a)** Surrender the current license plate or plates to the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director;

**(b)** Apply for a new license plate or plates; and

**(c)** Pay a change of classification fee required under [RCW 46.17.310](#).

**(7) Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful to:

- (a)** Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any vehicle that were not issued by the director for the vehicle;
- (b)** Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have been changed, altered, or disfigured, or have become illegible;

**(c)** 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;

**(d)** Operate a vehicle unless a valid license plate or plates are attached as required under this section;

**(e)** Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter between two or more vehicles without first making application to transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the department for nullification along with full details of the reasons for confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be issued a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or owners and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

**(f)** Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration certificate, except as authorized under this section.

**(8) Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates must be replaced when ownership of the vehicle changes, pursuant to subsection (9)(a)(i) of this section, but the registered owner may retain the license plates and transfer them to a replacement vehicle of the same use. In addition to all other taxes and fees due upon change in ownership, a registered owner wishing to keep standard issue license plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required under [RCW 46.17.200\(1\)\(c\)](#) when applying for license plate transfer.

**(b)** Special license plates and personalized license plates may be treated in the same manner as described in (a) of this subsection unless otherwise limited by law.

**(c)** License plates issued to the state or any county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision entitled to exemption as provided by law may be treated in the same manner as described in (a) of this subsection.

**(d)** License plate replacement is not required when a change in vehicle ownership is the result of one or more of the following circumstances:

**(i)** When adding a lien holder to the certificate of title or removing a lien holder from the certificate of title;

**(ii)** When a vehicle is transferred from one spouse or registered domestic partner to another;

**(iii)** When removing a deceased spouse or registered domestic partner from the certificate of title;

**(iv)** When a vehicle is transferred by gift or inheritance to one or more members of the registered owner's immediate family;

**(v)** When a vehicle is transferred into or out of a trust in which the registered owner or one or more immediate family members of the registered owner is the beneficiary;

**(vi)** When a leaseholder buys out the leased vehicle; or

**(vii)** When a person changes his or her name.

**(9) Replacement.** (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(a) of this section, an owner or the owner's authorized representative must apply for a replacement license plate or plates: (i) When taking ownership of the vehicle; (ii) if the current license plate or plates assigned to the vehicle have been lost, defaced, or destroyed; or (iii) if one or both plates have become so illegible or are in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish. An owner or the owner's authorized representative may apply for a replacement license plate or plates at any time the owner chooses. The department shall offer to owners the option of retaining the current license plate number when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee required in [RCW 46.17.200\(1\)\(b\)](#).

**(b)** The application for a replacement license plate or plates must:

**(i)** Be on a form furnished or approved by the director; and

**(ii)** Be accompanied by the fee required under [RCW 46.17.200\(1\)\(a\)](#).

**(c)** When a vehicle is sold to a vehicle dealer for resale, the application for a replacement plate or plates need not be made until the vehicle is sold by the vehicle dealer.

**(d)** The department shall not require the payment of any fee to replace a license plate or plates for vehicles owned, rented, or leased by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States government is a signatory by treaty.

**(10) Replacement — Exceptions.** The following license plates are not required to be replaced as required in subsection (9) of this section:

**(a)** Horseless carriage license plates issued under [RCW 46.18.255](#) before January 1, 1987;

**(b)** Medal of Honor license plates issued under [RCW 46.18.230](#);

**(c)** License plates for commercial motor vehicles with a gross weight greater than twenty-six thousand pounds.

**(11) Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

**(12) Tabs or emblems.** The director may issue tabs or emblems to be attached to license plates or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify initial registration and renewals. Renewals become effective when tabs or emblems have been issued and properly displayed.

# West Virginia

## W. Va. Code § 17A-3-15. Display of registration plates.

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**(a)** Registration plates issued for vehicles required to be registered under this article shall be attached to the rear of the vehicles except that on truck tractors and road tractors designed and constructed to pull trailers or semitrailers, the registration plate shall be mounted to the front.

**(b)** 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.

**(c)** Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, an owner of a motor vehicle with a Class G registration as defined in section one [\[§ 17A-10-1\]](#), article ten of this chapter may choose to:

**(1)** Display a standard, Class G registration plate in a horizontal position; or

**(2)** Display a specially designed Class G registration plate in a vertical position issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles if the owner:

**(A)** Pays a one-time fee of twenty-five dollars to cover the additional cost and services necessary to issue the special registration plate to be deposited into a special revolving fund to be used for the administration of this chapter; and

**(B)** Pays all other required fees and complies with all other applicable provisions of this code regarding the titling, registration and operation of the vehicle.

# Wisconsin

## Wisc. Stat. Ann. § 341.15. Display of registration plates.

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**(1)** Whenever 2 registration plates are issued for a vehicle, one plate shall be attached to the front and one to the rear of the vehicle. Whenever only one registration plate is issued for a vehicle, the plate shall be attached as follows:

**(a)** If the vehicle is a truck tractor or road tractor or a motor truck issued the plate under [s. 341.405 \(2\)](#), to the front.

**(b)** For any other vehicle for which only one plate is issued, to the rear, except that a plate issued to or for a municipality under [s. 341.26 \(2m\)](#) may be attached to the front of the vehicle if the design or use of the vehicle is such as to make a plate attached to the rear difficult to see and read.

**(1m)**

**(a)** Except as provided in par. (b), any registration decal or tag issued by the department shall be placed on the rear registration plate of the vehicle in the manner directed by the department.

**(b)** Any registration decal or tag issued by the department for a truck tractor, road tractor or motor truck under sub. (1)

(a) or for any other vehicle which may bear a registration plate attached to the front as provided in sub. (1) (b) shall be placed on the front registration plate of the vehicle in the manner directed by the department.

**(2)** 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.

**(3)** Any of the following may be required to forfeit not more than \$200:

**(a)** A person who operates a vehicle for which a current registration plate, insert tag, decal or other evidence of registration has been issued without such plate, tag, decal or other evidence of registration being attached to the vehicle, except when such vehicle is being operated pursuant to a temporary operation permit or plate or displays a historical plate under [s. 341.265 \(1m\)](#) or [341.266 \(2\) \(dm\)](#);

**(b)** A person who operates a vehicle with a registration plate attached in a non-rigid or non-horizontal manner or in an inconspicuous place so as to make it difficult to see and read the plate;

**(c)** A person who operates a vehicle with a registration plate in an illegible condition due to the accumulation of dirt or other foreign matter.

# Wyoming

## Wy. Stat. Ann § 31-2-205. Display of license plates.

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- (a)** License plates for vehicles shall be:
  - (i)** Conspicuously displayed and securely fastened to be plainly visible:
    - (A)** One (1) on the front of the vehicle, excluding the following:
      - (I)** Motorcycles;
      - (II)** Multipurpose vehicles;
      - (III)** Trailers, including house trailers;
      - (IV)** Vehicles operated with demo, full use or manufacturer license plates issued pursuant to [W.S. 31-16-125](#);
      - (V)** Street rods registered pursuant to [W.S. 31-2-226](#);
      - (VI)** Custom vehicles registered pursuant to [W.S. 31-2-227](#);
      - (VII)** Antique vehicles registered pursuant to [W.S. 31-2-223](#);
      - (VIII)** A motor vehicle which was originally manufactured without a bracket, device or other means to display and secure a front license plate.
    - (B)** One (1) on the rear of the vehicle.
  - (ii)** Secured to prevent swinging;
  - (iii)** Attached in a horizontal position no less than twelve (12) inches from the ground;
  - (iv)** Maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible.
- (b)** Repealed by [Laws 1991, ch. 37, § 1](#).