

ASSEMBLY, No. 1531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits license plate frames which do not obscure numbers or letters on motor vehicle license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle license plates and amending
2 R.S.39:3-33.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.39:3-33 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:3-33. The owner of an automobile which is driven on the
9 public highways of this State shall display not less than 12 inches
10 nor more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position,
11 and in such a way as not to swing, an identification mark or marks
12 to be furnished by the **[division]** commission; provided, that if two
13 marks are issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the
14 vehicle; and provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it
15 shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further,
16 that the rear identification mark may be displayed more than 48
17 inches from the ground on tank trucks, trailers and other
18 commercial vehicles carrying inflammable liquids and on sanitation
19 vehicles which are used to collect, transport, and dispose of
20 garbage, solid wastes and refuse. Motorcycles shall also display an
21 identification mark or marks; provided, that if two marks are issued
22 they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the motorcycle; and
23 provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be
24 displayed on the rear of the motorcycle.

25 The identification mark or marks shall contain the number of the
26 registration certificate of the vehicle and shall be of such design and
27 material as prescribed pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1989, c.202
28 (C.39:3-33.9). All identification marks shall be kept clear and
29 distinct and free from grease, dust or other blurring matter, so as to
30 be plainly visible at all times of the day and night.

31 No person shall drive a motor vehicle which has a license plate
32 frame or identification marker holder that conceals or otherwise
33 obscures **[any part of any marking]** the numbers or letters of the
34 registration certificate of the vehicle imprinted upon the vehicle's
35 registration plate or **[any part of]** identifying information set forth
36 on any insert which the **[director]** chief administrator, as
37 hereinafter provided, issues to be inserted in and attached to that
38 registration plate or marker.

39 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered
40 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to
41 the registration plates or markers described herein. They may be
42 issued in the place of new registration plates or markers; and
43 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which
44 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

45 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has not

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the proper
2 registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor vehicle
3 which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than that
4 designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.
5 During the period of time between the application for motor vehicle
6 registration and the receipt of registration plates from the **【division】**
7 commission, no person shall affix a plate or marker for the purpose
8 of advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle normally
9 reserved for the display of the registration plates required by this
10 section if the plate or marker is designed with a combination of
11 letters, numbers, colors, or words to resemble the registration plates
12 required by this section.

13 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as
14 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding
15 **【\$500.00】** \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more
16 than 60 days.

17 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be
18 subject to a fine not exceeding **【\$100.00】** \$100. In default of the
19 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the
20 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted
21 of a second offense of the same violation may be fined in double the
22 amount herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default
23 of the payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county
24 jail for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not
25 apply to the display of a fictitious number.

26 (cf: P.L.1989, c.202, s.1)

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill amends the provision of law which prohibits a license
34 plate frame or identification marker holder that obscures any part of
35 a motor vehicle's license plate. Under the bill, a license plate frame
36 or identification marker holder is permitted so long as the frame or
37 holder does not conceal or obscure the numbers or letters of the
38 vehicle's registration certificate imprinted upon the vehicle's
39 license plate or any identifying information set forth on any insert.

40 The sponsor introduced this bill in response to concerns
41 regarding an increase in the number of tickets issued for license
42 plate infractions.