

ASSEMBLY, No. 4099

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman DEANNE C. DEFUCCIO

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Auth

SYNOPSIS

Permits dealer issued license plate frames which do not obscure numbers and letters on motor vehicle license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

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

3

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

6

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 imprinted upon the vehicle's
34 registration plate or any part of any insert which the **[director]**
35 chief administrator, as hereinafter provided, issues to be inserted in
36 and attached to that registration plate or marker. This provision
37 shall not apply to any license plate frame or identification marker
38 holder that has been issued to a motor vehicle owner or lessee by a
39 dealer authorized to engage in the business of buying, selling, or
40 dealing in motor vehicles in this State under the provisions of
41 chapter 10 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, provided that the
42 frame or holder does not conceal, obscure, or in any way encroach
43 upon the registration numbers and letters set forth on the motor
44 vehicle's license plates.

45 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered

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 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to
2 the registration plates or markers described herein. They may be
3 issued in the place of new registration plates or markers; and
4 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which
5 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

6 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has not
7 complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the proper
8 registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor vehicle
9 which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than that
10 designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.
11 During the period of time between the application for motor vehicle
12 registration and the receipt of registration plates from the **[division]**
13 commission, no person shall affix a plate or marker for the purpose
14 of advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle normally
15 reserved for the display of the registration plates required by this
16 section if the plate or marker is designed with a combination of
17 letters, numbers, colors, or words to resemble the registration plates
18 required by this section.

19 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as
20 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00
21 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days.

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

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

32
33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month
34 following enactment.

35 36 37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill clarifies that the provision of law, which prohibits a
40 license plate frame or identification marker holder that obscures or
41 conceals any part of a motor vehicle's license plate does not apply
42 to a dealer issued frame or holder so long as the frame or holder
43 does not conceal, obscure, or in any way encroach upon the
44 registration numbers and letters set forth on the motor vehicle's
45 license plates.

46 The sponsor introduced this bill in response to news reports
47 concerning an increase in the number of tickets issued for license
48 plate infractions.