

SENATE, No. 4198

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Allows license plate frame to obscure certain parts of license plate under certain conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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 nor
10 more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position, and in
11 such a way as not to swing, an identification mark or marks to be
12 furnished by the **[division]**commission; provided, that if two marks
13 are issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle;
14 and provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be
15 displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further, that the
16 rear identification mark may be displayed more than 48 inches from
17 the ground on tank trucks, trailers, and other commercial vehicles
18 carrying inflammable liquids and on sanitation vehicles which are
19 used to collect, transport, and dispose of garbage, solid wastes, and
20 refuse. Motorcycles shall also display an identification mark or
21 marks; provided, that if two marks are issued they shall be displayed
22 on the front and rear of the motorcycle; and provided, further, that if
23 only one mark is issued it shall be displayed on the rear of the
24 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 distinct
29 and free from grease, dust, or other blurring matter, so as to be plainly
30 visible at all times of the day and night.

31 **[No]** A person **[shall]** may drive a motor vehicle which has a
32 license plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or
33 otherwise obscures **[any]** part of any marking imprinted upon the
34 vehicle's registration plate or any part of any insert which the
35 **[director]** chief administrator, as hereinafter provided, issues to be
36 inserted in and attached to that registration plate or marker, provided
37 that any part of any marking imprinted upon the vehicles registration
38 plate or any part of any insert which has been issued by chief
39 administrator is not concealed or obscured in a way that it cannot
40 reasonably be identified or discerned.

41 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered
42 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to the
43 registration plates or markers described herein. They may be issued
44 in the place of new registration plates or markers; and inscribed

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 thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which registration of the
2 vehicle has been granted.

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

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

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

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

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30 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month
31 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill provides that a person may operate a motor vehicle with
37 a license plate framer or identification marker holder that conceals or
38 obscures part of any marking imprinted upon the plate or any insert
39 issued for the vehicle so long as the marking or insert can still
40 reasonably be identified or discerned.