

39:3-33

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 39:3-33 (MV license plates--require reflectorized)

LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 133

Bill No. A681

Sponsor(s) McManimon and Herman

Date Introduced Jan. 21, 1980

Committee: Assembly Transportation and Communications

Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly May 19, 1980

Senate July 28, 1980

Date of approval May 4, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~No~~

Senate ~~Yes~~ No

Fiscal Note ~~Yes~~ No

Veto Message ~~Yes~~ No

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports ~~Yes~~ No

Hearings ~~Yes~~ No

6/22/81

ASSEMBLY, No. 681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 21, 1980

By Assemblymen McMANIMON and HERMAN

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Communications

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

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

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

2 39:3-33. The owner of an automobile which is driven on the
3 public highways of this State shall display not less than 12 inches
4 nor more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position,
5 and in such a way as not to swing, an identification mark or marks
6 to be furnished by the division; provided, that if two marks are
7 issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle;
8 and provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be
9 displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further, that
10 the rear identification mark may be displayed more than 48 inches
11 from the ground on tank trucks, trailers and other commercial
12 vehicles carrying inflammable liquids. Motorcycles shall also
13 display an identification mark or marks; provided, that if two
14 marks are issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of
15 the motorcycle; and provided, further, that if only one mark is
16 issued it shall be displayed on the rear of the motorcycle.

17 The identification mark or marks shall contain the number of the
18 registration certificate of the vehicle and shall be of such design
19 and material as the director prescribes. *All registration plates*
20 *issued by the division after July 1, 1981 shall be of a permanent*
21 *nature and shall be fully treated with a reflectorized material*
22 *designed to increase the nighttime visibility and legibility thereof,*
23 *according to specifications prescribed by the division. Whenever*
24 *reflectorized registration plates are issued for any vehicle for which*
25 *a registration fee is normally charged, the division may charge an*
26 *additional fee not to exceed \$0.05 above actual costs. All iden-*
27 *tification marks shall be kept clear and distinct and free from*

28 grease, dust or other blurring matter, so as to be plainly visible
29 at all times of the day and night.

30 The director is authorized and empowered to issue registration
31 plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to the registration
32 plates or markers described herein. They may be issued in the
33 place of new registration plates or markers; and inscribed thereon,
34 in numerals, shall be the year in which registration of the vehicle
35 has been granted.

36 No person shall drive a motor vehicle, the owner of which has
37 not complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the
38 proper registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor
39 vehicle which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than
40 that designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.

41 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as pro-
42 hibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or
43 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60 days.

44 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be
45 subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.00. In default of the payment
46 thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the county jail
47 for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted of a second
48 offense of the same violation may be fined in double the amount
49 herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default of the
50 payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
51 for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply
52 to the display of a fictitious number.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would require the issuance of reflectorized motor vehicle license plates in New Jersey.

Although the State recently redesigned its motor vehicle license plates, we remain one of only five states which do not issue reflectorized plates. Such plates, because they markedly improve visibility at night, enhance both law enforcement and highway safety. A comparison of the lower night-time visibility of New Jersey plates is readily available on our roads since all bordering states issue reflectorized plates.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police and a number of other law enforcement and safety organizations have called on all jurisdictions to issue reflectorized license plates.

A681 (1981)

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 681

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 1980

This bill would require the issuance of reflectorized motor vehicle license plates in New Jersey. As amended by the committee, Assembly No. 681 provides that this is to occur by January 1, 1982 provided that the Division of Motor Vehicles has already used any existing supplies of non-reflectorized plates which it ordered prior to that date.

Although the State recently redesigned its motor vehicle license plates, we remain one of only five states which do not issue reflectorized plates. Such plates, because they markedly improve visibility at night, enhance both law enforcement and highway safety. A comparison of the lower night-time visibility of New Jersey plates is readily available on our roads since all bordering states issue reflectorized plates.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police and a number of other law enforcement and safety organizations have called on all jurisdictions to issue reflectorized license plates.

The Division of Motor Vehicles supports this bill.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED MAY 5, 1980

Amend page 1, section 1, line 20, omit "July 1, 1981", insert "January 1, 1982".

Amend page 1, section 1, line 23, after "division", insert ", except that the division shall first use any existing supplies of nonreflectorized plates which it ordered prior to that date".

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 21, 1980

By Assemblymen McMANIMON and HERMAN

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Communications

AN ACT concerning motor vehicle license plates, amending R. S.
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3 public highways of this State shall display not less than 12 inches
4 nor more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position,
5 and in such a way as not to swing, an identification mark or marks
6 to be furnished by the division; provided, that if two marks are
7 issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle;
8 and provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be
9 displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further, that
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11 from the ground on tank trucks, trailers and other commercial
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15 the motorcycle; and provided, further, that if only one mark is
16 issued it shall be displayed on the rear of the motorcycle.

17 The identification mark or marks shall contain the number of the
18 registration certificate of the vehicle and shall be of such design
19 and material as the director prescribes. *All registration plates*
20 *issued by the division after ***[July 1, 1981]*** *January 1, 1982**
21 *shall be of a permanent nature and shall be fully treated with a*
22 *reflectorized material designed to increase the nighttime visibility*
23 *and legibility thereof, according to specifications prescribed by the*
23A *division*, except that the division shall first use any existing sup-*
23B *plies of nonreflectorized plates which it ordered prior to that date*.*
24 *Whenever reflectorized registration plates are issued for any*
25 *vehicle for which a registration fee is normally charged, the divi-*

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

26 *sion may charge an additional fee not to exceed \$0.05 above actual*
27 *costs.* All identification marks shall be kept clear and distinct and
28 free from grease, dust or other blurring matter, so as to be plainly
29 visible at all times of the day and night.

30 The director is authorized and empowered to issue registration
31 plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to the registration
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33 place of new registration plates or markers; and inscribed thereon,
34 in numerals, shall be the year in which registration of the vehicle
35 has been granted.

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37 not complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the
38 proper registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor
39 vehicle which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than
40 that designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.

41 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as pro-
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47 for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted of a second
48 offense of the same violation may be fined in double the amount
49 herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default of the
50 payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
51 for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply
52 to the display of a fictitious number.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

MAY 4, 1981

PAT SWEENEY

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed the following bills:

S-1617, sponsored by Senator James A. Galdieri (D-Hudson), which appropriates \$7 million from the 1980 Public Purpose Building Construction Fund to the Department of Corrections. Approximately \$1.5 million will be used to buy trailers, in accordance with Commissioner Fauver's plan to ease overcrowding. The remainder will be used for roof renovations and replacements at Annandale, Skillman, Yardville and Bordentown.

A-681, sponsored by Assemblyman Francis J. McManimon (D-Mercer), which requires the issuance of reflectorized motor vehicles license plates.

Reflectorized plates would be easier to read at night, while aiding in law enforcement activities.

The Division of State Use Industries in the Department of Corrections will need approximately \$900,000 to begin preparations for producing reflectorized plates.

The program is scheduled to begin on January 1, 1982, with the necessary appropriations made in the 1982 Appropriations Act, making funds available July 1, 1981.

S-1501, sponsored by Senator Lee B. Laskin (R-Camden), which validates bond proceedings for school districts where the election notices were not published in accordance with N.J.S. 18A:14-19, provided the following conditions were met: a) the election notices were posted in accordance with the above statute, and b) no proceeding is commenced contesting the election.

The bill is designed to validate a bond proceeding for the school district of Wildwood, which had published the notice in a newspaper not meeting the statutory requirements.

A-926, sponsored by Assemblyman Walter Rand (D-Camden), which authorizes the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to regulate invalid coach services for Medicaid recipients.

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