

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

**NJSA:** 39:3-33 (License plate holders-- prohibit obscure plate)

**LAWS OF:** 1989 **CHAPTER:** 132

**BILL NO:** A57/1254

**SPONSOR(S):** Albohn and Rooney

**Date Introduced:** Pre-field

**Committee:** **Assembly:** Law, Public Safety and Corrections  
**Senate:** Law, Public Safety and Defense

**Amended during passage:** Yes Assembly Committee substitute (1st reprint) enacted.

**Date of Passage:** **Assembly:** June 2, 1988  
**Senate:** June 19, 1989

**Date of Approval:** August 2, 1989

**Following statements are attached if available:**

**Sponsor statement:** Yes

**Committee statement:** **Assembly** Yes  
**Senate** Yes

**Fiscal Note:** No

**Veto Message:** No

**Message on Signing:** No

**Following were printed:**

**Reports:** No

**Hearings:** No

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY, Nos. 57 and 1254

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 1, 1988

By Assemblymen ALBOHN and ROONEY

1    **AN ACT** concerning the displaying of motor vehicle license  
      plates and amending R.S.39:3-33.

3

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

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

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

25    The identification mark or marks shall contain the number of  
      the registration certificate of the vehicle and shall be of such  
27    design and material as the director prescribes. All registration  
      plates issued by the division after January 1, 1982 shall be of a  
29    permanent nature and shall be fully treated with a reflectorized  
      material designed to increase the nighttime visibility and  
31    legibility thereof, according to specifications prescribed by the

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows.

Senate floor amendments adopted March 20, 1989.

1 division, except that the division shall first use any existing  
2 supplies of nonreflectorized plates which it ordered prior to that  
3 date. Whenever reflectorized registration plates are issued for  
4 any vehicle for which a registration fee is normally charged, the  
5 division may charge an additional fee not to exceed \$0.05 above  
6 actual costs. All identification marks shall be kept clear and  
7 distinct and free from grease, dust or other blurring matter, so  
8 as to be plainly visible at all times of the day and night.

9 No person shall drive a motor vehicle which has a license  
10 plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or  
11 otherwise obscures any part of any marking imprinted upon the  
12 vehicle's registration plate or any part of any insert which the  
13 director, as hereinafter provided, issues to be inserted in and  
14 attached to that registration plate or marker.

15 The director is authorized and empowered to issue  
16 registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to the  
17 registration plates or markers described herein. They may be  
18 issued in the place of new registration plates or markers; and  
19 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which  
20 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

21 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has  
22 not complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the  
23 proper registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor  
24 vehicle which displays a fictitious number, or a number other  
25 than that designated for the motor vehicle in its registration  
26 certificate. <sup>1</sup>During the period of time between the application  
27 for motor vehicle registration and the receipt of registration  
28 plates from the division, no person shall affix a plate or marker  
29 for the purpose of advertisement in the position on a motor  
30 vehicle normally reserved for the display of the registration  
31 plates required by this section if the plate or marker is designed  
32 with a combination of letters, numbers, colors, or words to  
33 resemble the registration plates required by this section.<sup>1</sup>

34 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as  
35 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding  
36 \$500.00 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60  
37 days.

38 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be  
39 subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.00. In default of the

1 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the  
2 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person  
3 convicted of a second offense of the same violation may be  
4 fined in double the amount herein prescribed for the first  
5 offense and may, in default of the payment thereof, be punished  
6 by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 20  
7 days. These penalties shall not apply to the display of a  
8 fictitious number.

9 (cf: P.L.1983, c.428, s.1)

10 2. This act shall take effect on the 120th day after the day of  
11 enactment.

13

#### MOTOR VEHICLES

15

##### Motor Vehicle - License and Registration

17 Prohibits use of license plate holders which conceal or obscure  
18 markings on plate; prohibits use of advertising plates resembling  
19 registration plates.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 57  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1988 SESSION

By Assemblyman ALBOHN

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

3

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

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

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

25 The identification mark or marks shall contain the number of  
the registration certificate of the vehicle and shall be of such  
27 design and material as the director prescribes. All registration  
plates issued by the division after January 1, 1982 shall be of a  
29 permanent nature and shall be fully treated

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 for the first offense and may, in default of the payment thereof,  
be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not  
3 exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply to the display  
of a fictitious number.

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

STATEMENT

9

This bill prohibits the use of any license plate holder or frame  
11 which conceals or otherwise obscures any of the markings  
imprinted on a motor vehicle license plate or any insert or  
13 sticker which is required to be attached to or affixed on that  
license plate by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

15

17

MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor Vehicle- License and Registration

19

Prohibits use of license plate holders which conceal or obscure  
21 markings on plate.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1254

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1988 SESSION

By Assemblyman ROONEY

1 AN ACT concerning the displaying of motor vehicle license  
plates and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

7 1. a. No person shall drive a motor vehicle which has a  
license plate frame or identification marker holder that  
9 conceals or otherwise obscures any part of any marking  
imprinted upon that vehicle's registration plate or any part of  
11 any insert which, at the direction of the director, is attached  
thereto or affixed thereon.

13 Any operator violating the provisions of this act shall be  
subject to a fine of \$25.00.

15 b. Any new or used car dealer who places upon a vehicle any  
license plate frame or identification marker holder that  
17 conceals or otherwise obscures any part of any marking  
imprinted upon a vehicle's registration plate or any part of any  
19 insert which, at the direction of the director, is attached  
thereto or affixed thereon shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00.

21 c. No motor vehicle which has a license plate frame or  
identification marker holder that conceals or otherwise obscures  
23 any part of any marking imprinted upon its registration plate or  
any part of any insert which, at the direction of the director, is  
25 attached thereto or affixed thereon shall be certified as  
approved by any official inspection station or any licensed  
27 private inspection center.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1

## STATEMENT

3 This bill prohibits the use of any license plate holder or frame  
which conceals or otherwise obscures any of the markings  
5 imprinted on a motor vehicle license plate or any insert or  
sticker which is required to be attached to or affixed on that  
7 license plate by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Under the provisions of the bill, the operator of a motor  
9 vehicle that has a license plate frame or holder which conceals  
or obscures any of the information on the plate is subject to a  
11 fine of \$25.00. If a new or used car dealer installs or places any  
such frame or holder on a motor vehicle, he is subject to a fine  
13 of \$50.00.

Finally, the bill provides that no motor vehicle that has a  
15 license plate frame or holder which conceals or obscures any of  
the information on its license plate shall be certified as  
17 approved by an official inspection station or a licensed private  
inspection center.

19

21

## MOTOR VEHICLES

## Motor Vehicle - License and Registration

23

Prohibits use of license plate holders which conceal or obscure  
25 markings on plate.



ASSEMBLY LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 57 and 1254**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 1, 1988

The Assembly Law, Public Safety and Corrections Committee favorably reports a Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill 57 and Assembly Bill 1254.

The Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill 57 and Assembly Bill 1254 amends R.S. 39:3-33 to prohibit the use of any license plate holder or frame which conceals or otherwise obscures any of the markings imprinted on a motor vehicle license plate or any insert or sticker which is required to be attached to or affixed on that license plate by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The Committee notes that the provisions of the Committee Substitute take effect on the 120th day following the day of its enactment.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 57 and 1254**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 12, 1989

The Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee reports favorably the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 57 and 1254.

The committee substitute amends R.S.39:3-33 to prohibit the use of any license plate holder or frame which conceals or otherwise obscures any of the markings imprinted on a motor vehicle license plate or any insert or sticker which is required by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to be attached to or affixed on that license plate .

1 with a reflectorized material designed to increase the nighttime  
visibility and legibility thereof, according to specifications  
3 prescribed by the division, except that the division shall first use  
any existing supplies of nonreflectorized plates which it ordered  
5 prior to that date. Whenever reflectorized registration plates  
are issued for any vehicle for which a registration fee is  
7 normally charged, the division may charge an additional fee not  
to exceed \$0.05 above actual costs. All identification marks  
9 shall be kept clear and distinct and free from grease, dust or  
other blurring matter, so as to be plainly visible at all times of  
11 the day and night.

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

No person shall drive a motor vehicle which has a license  
19 plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or  
otherwise obscures any part of any marking imprinted on that  
21 plate or any part of any plate insert which, at the direction of  
the director, is attached thereto or affixed thereon.

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

29 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as  
prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding  
31 \$500.00 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 60  
days.

33 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be  
subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.00. In default of the  
35 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the  
county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person  
37 convicted of a second offense of the same violation may be  
fined in double the amount herein prescribed