

CHAPTER 138 LAWS OF N. J. 1973
APPROVED 5-17-73

ASSEMBLY, No. 2172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 1973

By Assemblymen McDONOUGH and MANNER

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities

AN ACT concerning motor vehicles and amending R. S. 39:3-20.

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

1 1. R. S. 39:3-20 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:3-20. An applicant for registration for trucks, road tractors
3 and truck tractors shall pay to the director a fee based on the gross
4 weight of the vehicle and load including the gross weight of all
5 vehicles and load of any combination of vehicles of which the truck,
6 road tractor or truck tractor is the drawing vehicle in such com-
7 bination of vehicles. The plates to be used for commercial motor
8 vehicles shall display the word "commercial," and the numerals
9 shall be prefixed by the letter "X" or "Z." Trailer plates shall
10 have the letter "T." The fee for trucks, road tractors and truck
11 tractors shall be paid in accordance with the following:

12 When the gross weight of vehicle and load, including the gross
13 weight of all vehicles and load of any combination of vehicles of
14 which the truck, road tractor or truck tractor is the drawing vehicle
15 in such combination of vehicles, is 5,000 pounds or less, the minimum
16 registration fee shall be \$40.00 and where greater than 5,000 pounds,
17 the registration fee shall be \$40.00 for the first 5,000 pounds and
18 \$7.30 for each additional 1,000 pounds or portion thereof up to a
19 maximum of 72,000 pounds.

20 An applicant for registration for trailers and semitrailers shall
21 pay to the director a fee of \$15.00 for each such vehicle.

22 In addition to the registrations authorized to be issued pursuant
23 to the aforesaid provisions of this section, the director shall issue
24 registrations for automobile commercial vehicles, trailers, semi-
25 trailers, and tractors providing for the gross weight of vehicle
26 and load over 40,000 pounds but not exceeding 70,000 pounds, upon
27 application therefor and proof to the satisfaction of the director
28 that the applicant is actually engaged in construction work or in the

29 business of supplying material, transporting material, or using such
30 registered vehicle for construction work. The license plate so issued
31 shall be marked "constructor" and shall be placed upon the vehicle
32 or vehicles registered under this section. In no event shall a vehicle
33 or combination of vehicles, operating as a unit, registered under
34 this section and using "constructor" registration plates exceed a
35 maximum gross weight, inclusive of load, of 70,000 pounds.

36 The applicant for "constructor" registration plates authorized
37 herein shall pay therefor on each vehicle at the rate of \$16.00 per
38 thousand pounds of gross weight of vehicle and load.

39 Vehicles registered and using "constructor" registration plates
40 may not be operated at a distance greater than 30 miles from the
41 point established as a headquarters for the particular construction
42 operation and such vehicles, except as hereafter provided, must
43 comply with the speed limitations of Title 39 of the Revised Stat-
44 utes. Such vehicles when carrying a gross weight of vehicle and
45 load less than 50% of the certificate of registration shall comply
46 with applicable speed laws and shall not move along a highway at
47 a speed greater than 40 miles per hour. When carrying a gross
48 weight of vehicle and load in excess of 50% of the certificate of
49 registration, such vehicle shall comply with applicable speed laws
50 and shall not move along a highway at a speed greater than 30
51 miles per hour.

52 It shall be unlawful for any vehicle registered under this act
53 having gross weight of load and vehicle including the gross weight
54 of all vehicles and load in any combination of vehicles in excess of
55 the gross weight provided on the registration certificate to be
56 operated on the highways of this State.

57 In the event that a truck, road tractor or truck tractor registered
58 under this act is found on a highway in combination with a trailer
59 or semitrailer duly registered in any other State or Federal district
60 which imposes registration weight fees on such trailers or semi-
61 trailers, the drawing vehicle of the combination registered under
62 this act shall have a gross weight registration equal to at least
63 one-half of the combined gross weight of all the vehicles and load
64 in the combination of vehicles. If it does not, the operation of said
65 combination of vehicles on the highways of this State shall be
66 unlawful.

67 The 5% allowance provided by section 5 of P. L. 1950, c. 142
68 shall be applicable as heretofore to all registered weight limi-
69 tations provided in this section, except that in no event shall the
70 gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles, including

71 load, exceed the Federal maximum of 73,280 pounds or as such
72 may be amended from time to time. In the case of a truck, road
73 tractor or truck tractor registered under this act in combination
74 with a trailer or semitrailer duly registered in any other State or
75 Federal district which imposes registration weight fees on such
76 trailers or semitrailers, known as a mixed combination, the 5%
77 allowance shall be applied by adding to the registered weight of the
78 drawing vehicle registered under this act 5% of said registered
79 weight. If the resulting sum is equal at least to one-half of the com-
80 bined gross weight of the mixed combination, then the mixed
81 combination shall be in compliance with the registration require-
82 ments of this section.

83 Moneys realized from the increase of the fees for registrations
84 issued pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be paid into the
85 State treasury and credited to the General State Fund and avail-
86 able for general State purposes.

87 This section shall not be construed to supersede or repeal the
88 provisions of either sections 39:3-84 or 39:4-75 of this Title.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill adds the letter "Z" as an alternative prefix for commercial license plates. The Division of Motor Vehicles has almost exhausted the possible combinations prefixed by the letter "X." This bill will ensure the division will continue to issue commercial license plates when the six digit letter and number combinations prefixed by "X" are exhausted by issuing plates prefixed by the letter "Z." Six digit plates prefixed by the letter "Z" have never been issued.