

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3494

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 8, 2022

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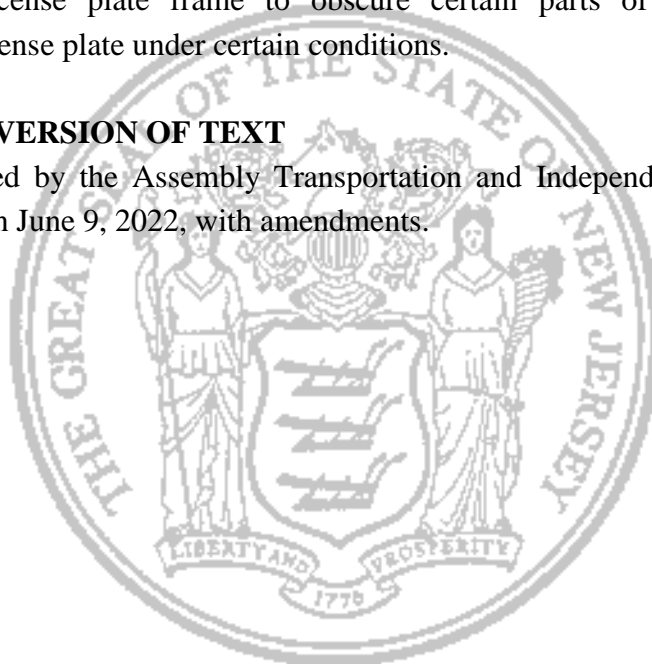
Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Senators O'Scanlon, Codey and Durr

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on June 9, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/20/2023)

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, ¹**[an identification mark or marks]** a registration plate or plates¹ to be furnished by the
12 **[division]** commission; provided, that if two ¹**[marks]** registration
13 plates¹ are issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the
14 vehicle; and provided, further, that if only one ¹**[mark]** registration
15 plate¹ is issued it shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and
16 provided, further, that the rear ¹**[identification mark]** registration
17 plate¹ may be displayed more than 48 inches from the ground on
18 tank trucks, trailers, and other commercial vehicles carrying
19 inflammable liquids and on sanitation vehicles which are used to
20 collect, transport, and dispose of garbage, solid wastes, and refuse.
21 Motorcycles shall also display ¹**[an identification mark or marks]** a
22 registration plate or plates¹; provided, that if two ¹**[marks]**
23 registration plates¹ are issued they shall be displayed on the front
24 and rear of the motorcycle; and provided, further, that if only one
25 ¹**[mark]** registration plate¹ is issued it shall be displayed on the rear
26 of the motorcycle.

27
28 The ¹**[identification mark or marks]** registration plate¹ shall
29 contain the number of the registration certificate of the vehicle and
30 shall be of such design and material as prescribed pursuant to
31 section 2 of P.L.1989, c.202 (C.39:3-33.9). All ¹**[identification**
32 **marks]** registration plates¹ shall be kept clear and distinct and free
33 from grease, dust, or other blurring matter, so as to be plainly
34 visible at all times of the day and night.

35 **[No]** A person **[shall]** ¹**[may]** shall not¹ drive a motor vehicle
36 which has a ¹**[license]** registration¹ plate frame or ¹**[identification**
37 **marker]**¹ holder that conceals or otherwise obscures ¹**[any part of**
38 **any marking]** the name of the State or the registration number
39 furnished by the commission¹ imprinted upon the vehicle's
40 registration plate, or any part of any insert which the **[director]**
41 ¹**[chief administrator]** commission¹, as hereinafter provided, issues
42 to be inserted in and attached to that registration plate ¹**[or**
43 **marker]**¹, or ¹**[any part of any temporary registration plate which**
44 the chief administrator issues, provided that any part of any

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:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted June 9, 2022.

1 marking imprinted upon the vehicle's registration plate or any part
2 of any insert which has been issued by chief administrator or any
3 part of any temporary registration plate issued by the chief
4 administrator is not concealed or obscured in a way that it cannot
5 that conceals or otherwise obscures the name of the State, the
6 registration number, or the expiration date on any temporary
7 registration certificate or temporary registration plate issued by the
8 commission. It shall not be a violation of this section and therefore
9 not a basis for a lawful stop if part of the name of the State or the
10 registration number imprinted on a vehicle's registration plate, or
11 part of an insert issued by the commission inserted in or attached to
12 the registration plate, or part of the name of the State, the
13 registration number, or the expiration date on a temporary
14 registration certificate or temporary registration plate is concealed
15 or otherwise obscured in a way such that the information to which
16 this provision applies can still¹ reasonably be identified or
17 discerned. ¹The Attorney General shall issue such guidance as the
18 Attorney General deems necessary for law enforcement officers to
19 properly interpret and enforce the provisions of this section.¹

20 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered
21 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to
22 the registration plates ¹**[or markers]**¹ described herein. They may
23 be issued in the place of new registration plates ¹**[or markers]**¹; and
24 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which
25 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

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

39 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as
40 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding
41 **[\$500.00]** \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more
42 than 60 days.

43 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be
44 subject to a fine not exceeding **[\$100.00]** \$100. In default of the
45 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the
46 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted
47 of a second offense of the same violation may be fined in double the

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

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

6

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