

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 49, *approved May 8, 2023*
Assembly, No. 3494 (*First Reprint*)

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

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

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

25 The [director] chief administrator is authorized and empowered
26 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to
27 the registration plates '[or markers]'¹ described herein. They may
28 be issued in the place of new registration plates '[or markers]'; and
29 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which
30 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

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

44 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as
45 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding

1 ~~【\$500.00】~~ \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more
2 than 60 days.

3 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be
4 subject to a fine not exceeding ~~【\$100.00】~~ \$100. In default of the
5 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the
6 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted
7 of a second offense of the same violation may be fined in double the
8 amount herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default of
9 the payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
10 for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply
11 to the display of a fictitious number.

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

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

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