

SENATE, No. 2381

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.
District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

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

31 **[No]** A person **[shall]** may drive a motor vehicle which has a
32 license plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or
33 otherwise obscures any part of any marking imprinted upon the
34 vehicle's registration plate, or any part of any insert which the
35 **[director]** chief administrator, as hereinafter provided, issues to be
36 inserted in and attached to that registration plate or marker, or any
37 part of any temporary registration plate which the chief
38 administrator issues, provided that any part of any marking
39 imprinted upon the vehicle's registration plate or any part of any
40 insert which has been issued by chief administrator or any part of
41 any temporary registration plate issued by the chief administrator is
42 not concealed or obscured in a way that it cannot reasonably be
43 identified or discerned.

44 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered
45 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to

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 the registration plates or markers described herein. They may be
2 issued in the place of new registration plates or markers; and
3 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which
4 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

5 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has not
6 complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the proper
7 registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor vehicle
8 which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than that
9 designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.
10 During the period of time between the application for motor vehicle
11 registration and the receipt of registration plates from the **[division]**
12 commission, no person shall affix a plate or marker for the purpose
13 of advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle normally
14 reserved for the display of the registration plates required by this
15 section if the plate or marker is designed with a combination of
16 letters, numbers, colors, or words to resemble the registration plates
17 required by this section.

18 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as
19 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding
20 **[\$500.00]** \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more
21 than 60 days.

22 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be
23 subject to a fine not exceeding **[\$100.00]** \$100. In default of the
24 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the
25 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted
26 of a second offense of the same violation may be fined in double the
27 amount herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default of
28 the payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
29 for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply
30 to the display of a fictitious number.

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

32
33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month
34 following enactment.

37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill provides that a person may operate a motor vehicle with
40 a license plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or
41 obscures part of any marking imprinted upon the plate or any insert
42 or temporary registration plate issued for the vehicle so long as the
43 marking or insert can still reasonably be identified or discerned.