

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2381**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**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 Senate Transportation Committee on May 16, 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, 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]** <sup>1</sup>**[may]** shall not<sup>1</sup> drive a motor vehicle  
32 which has a license plate frame or identification marker holder that  
33 conceals or otherwise obscures <sup>1</sup>**[any part of any marking]** the  
34 name of the State or any identification marks furnished by the  
35 commission pursuant to this section which are<sup>1</sup> imprinted upon the  
36 vehicle's registration plate, or any part of any insert which the  
37 **[director]** <sup>1</sup>**[chief administrator]** commission<sup>1</sup>, as hereinafter  
38 provided, issues to be inserted in and attached to that registration  
39 plate or marker, or <sup>1</sup>**[any part of any temporary registration plate**  
40 which the chief administrator issues, provided that any part of any  
41 marking imprinted upon the vehicle's registration plate or any part  
42 of any insert which has been issued by chief administrator or any  
43 part of any temporary registration plate issued by the chief  
44 administrator is not concealed or obscured in a way that it cannot]

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate STR committee amendments adopted May 16, 2022.

1 that conceals or otherwise obscures the name of the State, any  
2 identification marks, or the expiration date on any temporary  
3 registration certificate or temporary registration plate issued by the  
4 commission. It shall not be a violation of this section if the name of  
5 the State and any identification marks on a vehicle's registration  
6 plate or the name of the State, any identification marks, and the  
7 expiration date on a temporary registration certificate or temporary  
8 registration plate can<sup>1</sup> reasonably be identified or discerned.

9 The **【director】** chief administrator is authorized and empowered  
10 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to  
11 the registration plates or markers described herein. They may be  
12 issued in the place of new registration plates or markers; and  
13 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which  
14 registration of the vehicle has been granted.

15 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has not  
16 complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the proper  
17 registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor vehicle  
18 which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than that  
19 designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.  
20 During the period of time between the application for motor vehicle  
21 registration and the receipt of registration plates from the **【division】**  
22 commission, no person shall affix a plate or marker for the purpose  
23 of advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle normally  
24 reserved for the display of the registration plates required by this  
25 section if the plate or marker is designed with a combination of  
26 letters, numbers, colors, or words to resemble the registration plates  
27 required by this section.

28 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as  
29 prohibited herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding  
30 **【\$500.00】** \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more  
31 than 60 days.

32 A person violating any other provision of this section shall be  
33 subject to a fine not exceeding **【\$100.00】** \$100. In default of the  
34 payment thereof, there shall be imposed an imprisonment in the  
35 county jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted  
36 of a second offense of the same violation may be fined in double the  
37 amount herein prescribed for the first offense and may, in default of  
38 the payment thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail  
39 for a period not exceeding 20 days. These penalties shall not apply  
40 to the display of a fictitious number.

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

42  
43 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month  
44 following enactment.