

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2381

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

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 amended by the Senate on March 20, 2023.



(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 nor
10 more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position, and in
11 such a way as not to swing, ²[an identification mark or marks] a
12 registration plate or plates² to be furnished by the [division]
13 commission; provided, that if two ²[marks] registration plates² are
14 issued they shall be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle; and
15 provided, further, that if only one ²[mark] registration plate² is issued
16 it shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further,
17 that the rear ²[identification mark] registration plate² may be
18 displayed more than 48 inches from the ground on tank trucks, trailers,
19 and other commercial vehicles carrying inflammable liquids and on
20 sanitation vehicles which are used to collect, transport, and dispose of
21 garbage, solid wastes, and refuse. Motorcycles shall also display ²[an
22 identification mark or marks] a registration plate or plates²; provided,
23 that if two ²[marks] registration plates² are issued they shall be
24 displayed on the front and rear of the motorcycle; and provided,
25 further, that if only one ²[mark] registration plate² is issued it shall be
26 displayed on the rear of the motorcycle.

27 The ²[identification mark or marks] registration plate² shall
28 contain the number of the registration certificate of the vehicle and
29 shall be of such design and material as prescribed pursuant to section 2
30 of P.L.1989, c.202 (C.39:3-33.9). All ²[identification marks]
31 registration plates² shall be kept clear and distinct and free from
32 grease, dust, or other blurring matter, so as to be plainly visible at all
33 times of the day and night.

34 **[No]** A person **[shall]** ¹[may] shall not¹ drive a motor vehicle
35 which has a ²[license] registration² plate frame or ²[identification
36 marker]² holder that conceals or otherwise obscures ¹[any part of any
37 marking] the name of the State or ²[any identification marks] the
38 registration number² furnished by the commission ²[pursuant to this
39 section which are]¹² imprinted upon the vehicle's registration plate, or
40 any part of any insert which the [director] ¹[chief administrator]
41 commission¹, as hereinafter provided, issues to be inserted in and
42 attached to that registration plate ²[or marker]², or ¹[any part of any
43 temporary registration plate which the chief administrator issues,
44 provided that any part of any marking 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:

¹Senate STR committee amendments adopted May 16, 2022.

²Senate floor amendments adopted March 20, 2023.

1 registration plate or any part of any insert which has been issued by
2 chief administrator or any part of any temporary registration plate
3 issued by the chief administrator is not concealed or obscured in a way
4 that it cannot that conceals or otherwise obscures the name of the
5 State, ²[any identification marks] the registration number², or the
6 expiration date on any temporary registration certificate or temporary
7 registration plate issued by the commission. It shall not be a violation
8 of this section ²and therefore not a basis for a lawful stop² if ²part of²
9 the name of the State ²[and any identification marks] or the
10 registration number imprinted² on a vehicle's registration plate^{2,2} or
11 ²part of an insert issued by the commission inserted in or attached to
12 the registration plate, or part of² the name of the State, ²[any
13 identification marks, and] the registration number, or² the expiration
14 date on a temporary registration certificate or temporary registration
15 plate ²is concealed or otherwise obscured in a way such that the
16 information to which this provision applies² can¹ ²still² reasonably be
17 identified or discerned. ²The Attorney General shall issue such
18 guidance as the Attorney General deems necessary for law
19 enforcement officers to properly interpret and enforce the provisions
20 of this section.²

21 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered to
22 issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to the
23 registration plates ²**[or markers]**² described herein. They may be
24 issued in the place of new registration plates ²**[or markers]**²; and
25 inscribed thereon, in numerals, shall be the year in which registration
26 of the vehicle has been granted.

27 No person shall drive a motor vehicle the owner of which has not
28 complied with the provisions of this subtitle concerning the proper
29 registration and identification thereof, nor drive a motor vehicle which
30 displays a fictitious number, or a number other than that designated for
31 the motor vehicle in its registration certificate. During the period of
32 time between the application for motor vehicle registration and the
33 receipt of registration plates from the **[division]** commission, no
34 person shall affix a plate ²**[or marker]**² for the purpose of
35 advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle normally reserved for
36 the display of the registration plates required by this section if the plate
37 ²**[or marker]**² is designed with a combination of letters, numbers,
38 colors, or words to resemble the registration plates required by this
39 section.

40 A person convicted of displaying a fictitious number, as prohibited
41 herein, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding **[\$500.00]** \$500 or
42 imprisonment in the county jail for not more 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 county
46 jail for a period not exceeding 10 days. A person convicted of a

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

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

7

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