

**SENATE, No. 1856**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes creation of vertical motorcycle license plates.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 AN ACT concerning motorcycle license plates, amending R.S.39:3-  
2 33, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. R.S.39:3-33 is amended to read as follows:

9 39:3-33. The owner of an automobile which is driven on the  
10 public highways of this State shall display not less than 12 inches  
11 nor more than 48 inches from the ground in a horizontal position,  
12 and in such a way as not to swing, an identification mark or marks  
13 to be furnished by the **[division]** commission; provided, that if two  
14 marks are issued **[they]** one mark shall be displayed on the front  
15 and one mark shall be displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and  
16 provided, further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be  
17 displayed on the rear of the vehicle; and provided, further, that the  
18 rear identification mark may be displayed more than 48 inches from  
19 the ground on tank trucks, trailers, and other commercial vehicles  
20 carrying inflammable liquids and on sanitation vehicles which are  
21 used to collect, transport, and dispose of garbage, solid wastes, and  
22 refuse.

23 Motorcycles shall also display an identification mark or  
24 identification marks in a horizontal position or in a vertical position,  
25 as prescribed pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
26 before the Legislature as this bill); provided, that if two marks are  
27 issued **[they]** one mark shall be displayed on the front and one  
28 mark shall be displayed on the rear of the motorcycle; and provided,  
29 further, that if only one mark is issued it shall be displayed on the  
30 rear of the motorcycle.

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

37 **[No]** A person shall not drive a motor vehicle which has a  
38 license plate frame or identification marker holder that conceals or  
39 otherwise obscures any part of any marking imprinted upon the  
40 vehicle's registration plate or any part of any insert which the  
41 **[director]** chief administrator, as hereinafter provided, issues to be  
42 inserted in and attached to that registration plate or marker.

43 The **[director]** chief administrator is authorized and empowered  
44 to issue registration plate inserts, to be inserted in and attached to  
45 the registration plates or markers described herein.

**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 ~~【They】~~ The registration plate inserts may be issued in the place of  
2 new registration plates or markers; and inscribed thereon, in  
3 numerals, shall be the year in which registration of the vehicle has  
4 been granted.

5 ~~【No】~~ A person shall not drive a motor vehicle if the owner of  
6 ~~【which】~~ the motor vehicle has not complied with the provisions of  
7 ~~【this subtitle】~~ Title 39 concerning the proper registration and  
8 identification thereof~~【, nor】~~ . A person shall not drive a motor  
9 vehicle which displays a fictitious number, or a number other than  
10 that designated for the motor vehicle in its registration certificate.  
11 During the period of time between the application for motor vehicle  
12 registration and the receipt of registration plates from the ~~【division,~~  
13 ~~no】~~ commission, a person shall not affix a plate or marker for the  
14 purpose of advertisement in the position on a motor vehicle  
15 normally reserved for the display of the registration plates required  
16 by this section if the plate or marker is designed with a combination  
17 of letters, numbers, colors, or words to resemble the registration  
18 plates required by this section.

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

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

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

33

34 2. (New section) a. Upon proper application, the Chief  
35 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall  
36 issue registration plates that are to be displayed in a vertical  
37 position for any motorcycle owned or leased and registered in the  
38 State. The vertical motorcycle registration plates shall contain an  
39 identification mark or identification marks to be furnished by the  
40 commission arranged in a vertical alignment. The vertical  
41 motorcycle registration plates shall be subject to the provisions of  
42 R.S.39:3-33, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

43 A vertical motorcycle registration plate shall only be displayed  
44 in a vertical position and shall not be displayed in a horizontal  
45 position. A registration plate for a motorcycle that contains an  
46 identification mark or identification marks arranged in a horizontal

- 1 alignment shall only be displayed in a horizontal position and shall  
2 not be displayed in a vertical position.
- 3 b. Application for issuance of vertical motorcycle registration  
4 plates shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a  
5 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be  
6 deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of  
7 \$20, payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the  
8 fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a  
9 motorcycle.
- 10 c. The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State  
11 Treasurer the average cost per set of vertical motorcycle registration  
12 plates incurred in the immediately preceding year by the  
13 commission in producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability  
14 of the vertical motorcycle registration plates. The annual  
15 certification of the average cost per set of vertical motorcycle  
16 registration plates shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
17 Committee, or its successor.
- 18 d. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the  
19 opportunity to obtain vertical motorcycle registration plates by  
20 publicizing the availability of the vertical motorcycle registration  
21 plates on the website of the commission.

22  
23 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
24 inoperative until the first day of the 12th month following  
25 enactment. The chief administrator may take anticipatory actions in  
26 advance of that date as may be necessary for the timely  
27 implementation of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
28 Legislature as this bill).

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30  
31 STATEMENT

32  
33 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator (chief administrator)  
34 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to  
35 issue license plates for motorcycles, which are to be displayed in a  
36 vertical position (vertical motorcycle license plates). The vertical  
37 motorcycle license plates are to contain the identification mark or  
38 marks, which are furnished by the commission, arranged in a  
39 vertical alignment. There is an application fee of \$20 for the  
40 vertical motorcycle license plates, which is to be in addition to the  
41 fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a  
42 motorcycle.

43 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the  
44 average cost per set of vertical motorcycle license plates incurred in  
45 the immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,  
46 issuing, and publicizing the availability of the vertical motorcycle  
47 license plates. The chief administrator is to notify eligible motorists  
48 of the opportunity to obtain vertical motorcycle license plates by

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1 publicizing the availability of the vertical motorcycle license plates  
2 on the website of the commission.

3 Under the bill, vertical motorcycle license plates are to only be  
4 displayed in a vertical position and are not to be displayed in a  
5 horizontal position. A license plate for a motorcycle that contains  
6 an identification mark or identification marks arranged in a  
7 horizontal alignment are to only be displayed in a horizontal  
8 position and are not to be displayed in a vertical position.