

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1191**

Introduced by

Representatives Ruby, Kempenich, Boe

Senators Miller, Olafson, O'Connell

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to semitrailer plates; and to provide for application.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **39-04-12. Contents of number plates - Size of letters and numerals on plates -**  
7 **Reflectorized - Tabs or stickers - Additional fee.**

- 8 1. Number plates must be of metal or other suitable material bearing the name of the  
9 state, either in full or by abbreviation, the number of the year, the slogan "Peace  
10 Garden State" and a distinctive number for assignment to each vehicle. The distinctive  
11 number may be in figures or a combination of figures and letters and must be of a size  
12 clearly distinguishable by law enforcement officers and individuals generally. To reduce  
13 highway accidents at night all number plates must be legible for a minimum distance  
14 of one hundred feet [30.48 meters] to an approaching motorist by day or night with  
15 lawful headlight beams and without other illumination. Each plate must be treated with  
16 a reflectorized material according to the specifications prescribed by the department.  
17 The department shall furnish for each annual registration a year plate, tab, or sticker to  
18 designate the year registration. The plate, tab, or sticker must show the registration  
19 year for which issued, and is valid only for that year.
- 20 2. ~~The department, in its discretion, may provide to an owner of a trailer that is operated,~~  
21 ~~offered for lease, or rented to the public, number plates that are for a period of not~~  
22 ~~more than six consecutive years and which are exempt from the requirements of~~  
23 ~~annual validation evidence. The registration fees for the trailer may be paid for the~~  
24 ~~entire period for which the plates are issued, or the fee may be paid for the first year of~~

1           the issue and a corporate surety bond may be filed in the sum the department  
2           determines reasonable and adequate in the circumstances, conditioned that the owner  
3           will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period. The  
4           department shall transfer to a replacement trailer number plates issued pursuant to  
5           this subsection along with any unused registration fees. If the owner has disposed of  
6           the trailer and is not replacing the trailer, upon surrender of the number plates the  
7           department shall issue a refund of the registration fees paid for any unused  
8           registration year.

- 9           3. ~~The department may provide to an owner of a fleet of one hundred or more vehicles~~  
10           ~~number plates that are valid for as many as six consecutive years and that are exempt~~  
11           ~~from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registrant shall file with~~  
12           ~~the department a corporate surety bond in an amount the department determines to~~  
13           ~~be reasonable and adequate, and conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at~~  
14           ~~the beginning of each annual registration period for which the number plates are~~  
15           ~~valid. The department shall provide to an owner of a semitrailer number plates that are~~  
16           valid for the useful life of that semitrailer. Plates provided under this subsection are  
17           exempt from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registration fee for  
18           the semitrailer is fifty dollars which must be paid at the time of registration.

19           **SECTION 2. APPLICATION.** Semitrailers that have valid registration maintained for the  
20           previous two years and which originally were registered before August 1, 2009, must be granted  
21           a number plate under subsection 2 of section 39-04-12 without additional registration fees.  
22           However, the department may charge an owner a new plate fee of \$5. Semitrailers originally  
23           registered after August 1, 2009, are subject to one-half of the fees provided by subsection 2 of  
24           section 39-04-12, and the department may charge an owner a new plate fee of \$5.