

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER
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DESCRIPTION

24/11

2001 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2411

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2411

Senate Transportation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-8-01 ~~2-15-01~~

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		34.7-54.6
2-15	1	x	41.8-46.4
Committee Clerk Signature <i>[Signature]</i>			

Minutes:SB 2411 relates to number plates.

**Senator Trenbeath:** (District 10; Supports) See attached testimony.

**Senator Espgaard:** (District 43; Supports) Supports bill.

**Ralph Mowder:** ( Bismarek Police Department; Opposes) Often officers respond to scenes and need to see front license plates if vehicle driving towards them. Two plates are important for law enforcement.

**John Olson:** ( ND State's Attorney Association and Peace Officer's Association; Opposes) This bill was proposed before. It's a safety issue and investigative tool for law enforcement.

**Roger Becker:** ( Bismarek Police Department; Opposes) Gives incidents where it's necessary to have two license plates on vehicles. It would hinder law enforcement.

**Keith Klser:** (Director of Motor Vehicle Division; Neutral) There are two aspects of this bill- safety and finances. Keep in mind too that if you choose to pass this bill, initially there will be about 700,000 extra plates floating around unless something is brought up on this issue. This bill

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Senate Transportation Committee  
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would reduce cost of plates by 90 cents. Single plates will be \$2.10- so you don't reduce cost in half.

**Senator Stenejem:** We need amendments for this bill.

Hearing closed.

Committee reconvened on 2-15-01

Discussion held. Motion made by Senator Trenbeath to Do Pass. Seconded by Senator Espegard.

Roll Call taken. 3-2-1. Carrier is Senator Trenbeath.

Committee closed.

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/30/2001

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2411

Amendment to:

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	1999-2001 Biennium		2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>				\$453,600		\$94,500
<b>Expenditures</b>				(\$720,000)		(\$150,000)
<b>Appropriations</b>				(\$720,000)		(\$150,000)

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

1999-2001 Biennium			2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
			\$165,600	\$100,800		\$34,500	\$21,000	

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This bill provides for the issuance of one license plate instead of two for motor vehicles, resulting in a reduced cost to purchase and distribute license plates. The estimated cost savings would be \$150,000 during most bienniums. However, if the anticipated general issuance of license plates is authorized for the 2001-2003 biennium, the estimated cost savings would be \$720,000.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

The cost savings resulting from this bill would mean that less revenue would be used for the operational expenses of the Motor Vehicle Division.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

Expenditures related to the purchase and distribution of license plates would be reduced.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Decreased expenditures would result in the need for a reduced appropriation.

<b>Name:</b>	Keith Kiser	<b>Agency:</b>	NDDOT
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-2725	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	02/01/2001



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
February 15, 2001 4:43 p.m.

Module No: SR-28-3588  
Carrier: Trenbeath  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2411: Transportation Committee (Sen. Stenejem, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (3 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2411 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.**



2001 TESTIMONY

SB 2411

Source: American Assoc. of Motor Vehicle Administrators  
1999

**CHAPTER  
4**

# License Plates

## 1. How many license plates does your jurisdiction require?

### One—27 jurisdictions

Alabama  
Alberta  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
Florida  
Georgia  
Idaho

Indiana  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Manitoba  
Michigan  
Mississippi  
New Mexico  
North Carolina

Northwest Territories  
Nova Scotia  
Oklahoma  
Pennsylvania  
Prince Edward Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
West Virginia  
Yukon Territory

### Two—36 jurisdictions

Alaska  
British Columbia  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Illinois

Iowa  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Brunswick

New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New York  
North Dakota  
Nova Scotia  
Ohio  
Ontario  
Oregon  
Rhode Island

Saskatchewan  
South Dakota  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

### Comments

Alberta  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado

Personalized plates are issued in pairs.  
Personalized plates and special plates.  
Only one plate for truck tractors.

Delaware  
Florida

Except for proportionally registered vehicles, non-motorized vehicles, ATV's, motorcycles or mopeds.

Personalized plates are issued with an association to the license number plate.  
Two plates are required on trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 lbs. or more.

Georgia  
Idaho

Exceptions are disabled veterans, handicapped veterans plates.

One plate only for motorcycles, ATV's, or semi-trailors; vehicles operated by a manufacturer, representative agent, or dealer; vehicle displaying year of manufacture, street rod, old timer or classic plates.

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THE FAST TRACK TO VEHICLE SERVICES FACTS

Maryland	One plate only for trailers, motorcycles, and tractor trailers.
Michigan	Personalized plates are issued in pairs.
Minnesota	For most vehicles.
Missouri	Only one for trailers, trucks over 12,000 lbs., motorcycles, motortricycles, and buses.
Oregon	Only one for trailers, motorcycles and mopeds. Decal for ATV's and snowmobiles.
Texas	One plate for combination, apportioned, trailers, motorcycles, cotton disaster relief, fertilizer trucks, log loader, moped, machinery, parade and tow trucks.
Utah	Two plates are issued for all passenger vehicles and trucks. Only one plate is issued for trailers and motorcycles. Base and annual renewal decals are issued for off-highway vehicles, snowmobiles and boats.
Vermont	Only one plate for trailers, motorcycles, mopeds, ATV's, antique, dealer.
Virginia	Only one plate for motorcycles, tractor trucks, semi-trailers, and trailers.
Washington	Only one plate for trailers, motorcycles, mopeds, campers, and antique vehicles.

2. If your jurisdiction issues two license plates, do you require decals to be placed on rear plates only? On the windshield?

The following jurisdictions require decals to be placed on rear plates only:

Alaska	Delaware	Manitoba	Ohio
Alberta	Florida*	Maryland	Ontario
Arizona	Georgia	Massachusetts	Saskatchewan
California	Hawaii	Nevada	Utah
Colorado	Illinois	Nova Scotia	Wisconsin
Connecticut	Iowa		

\*For heavy trucks 26,001 pounds or more only.

The following jurisdictions require decals to be placed on both plates:

District of Columbia	Montana	North Dakota	Virginia
Idaho	Nebraska	Oregon	Washington
Minnesota	New Brunswick	South Dakota	Wyoming
Missouri	New Hampshire	Vermont	

Comments

New Jersey	No decals on plates on passenger vehicles; decals are placed on plates on commercial vehicles; only inspection decal on windshield.
New York	Generally on the windshield. For vehicles without windshields, e.g., trailers, the decal is on the plate.
Rhode Island	No decals on two plates.
Texas	Windshield, except motorcycles, trailers, vehicles without a windshield or vehicles with annual plates.

3. Frequency of total license plate replacement programs:

None	7-10 Years
Alberta	Iowa
California	7 Years
Colorado	Idaho (staggered reissue when plate is 7 years old)
Illinois	Indiana
Manitoba	Minnesota
Massachusetts	Wisconsin
Michigan	
Missouri	5-7 Years
Nevada	New Hampshire
New Jersey	
New Mexico	7-8 Years
New York	Texas
Oklahoma	
Ontario	8 Years
Oregon	Arkansas
Pennsylvania	Massachusetts
Prince Edward Island	Wyoming
Quebec	
South Carolina	10 Years
Utah	Arizona
Virginia	Nova Scotia
Washington	Yukon Territory
West Virginia	
4 Years	10-12 Years
Nebraska	Hawaii
4-5 Years	Random
British Columbia	Connecticut
	Kansas
5 Years	Maryland
Alabama	North Carolina
Florida	Northwest Territories
Kentucky	Ohio
Mississippi	Ontario
South Dakota	Saskatchewan
Tennessee	Vermont
5-6 Years	Determined by Legislature
New Brunswick	Alaska
	District of Columbia
6 Years	Maine
North Dakota	Montana
	South Carolina
	Washington

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## THE FAST TRACK TO VEHICLE SERVICES FACTS

## 4. If you have a two-license-plate requirement, would a vehicle with no front plate constitute probable cause for a traffic stop?

Yes

Alaska

Infrequently results in arrest. Citation or warning may be given.

Arizona (LE)

Many instances of DUI, contraband, felony wants occurred when stops were made for no front plate.

British Columbia

Never results in an arrest.

California

A motor vehicle not displaying a front license plate would constitute probable cause for a traffic stop. This type of traffic stop frequently results in a citation being issued, and will occasionally lead to an arrest for a subsequent violation of law (i.e., DUI, vehicle theft, etc.).

California (LE)

On occasion, an arrest can result due to the driver being under the influence of alcohol/drugs, in possession of narcotics and/or weapons, unlicensed, have outstanding warrants, or committed some other criminal violation.

Colorado (LE)

Frequently—from a traffic enforcement perspective with other traffic violations detected. Occasionally a stolen vehicle and suspect will be apprehended or other serious felony arrest made from no front plate violation.

District of Columbia

Arrest is infrequent. Most stops result in a citation for "no front tag." Most violators use the excuse that "it was lost in the car wash or it was stolen."

Florida

Only on heavy trucks—26,001 GVW or more.

Guam (MV &amp; LE)

Frequently. Two license plates are required by the laws of Guam. Having/using only one would result in a violation of that law and therefore would be means of arrest.

Hawaii

No arrest, citation issued or warning provided.

Idaho (LE)

Occasionally. Typically a vehicle with no front license plate leads to other more serious violations, i.e., suspended/revoked driver; DUI; felony/misdemeanor warrants, etc.

Illinois (LE)

We routinely find that drug seizures, wanted persons and stolen cars and plates come from "one plate" stops. Though we have no statistics prepared at this time, our experience is to most often find more once this violation is enforced.

Iowa

Infrequently. The driver only would be arrested if he/she refused to sign the traffic ticket or was wanted on another charge.

Kansas (LE)

Infrequently. No data on improper display of personalized plates.

Maine

Infrequently. First time is generally a warning.

Maine

The standard for the vehicle stop is articulable suspicion. A stop for this infraction occasionally results in a summons being issued.

Maine (LE)

Failure to display a front plate in Maine is a traffic infraction (non-arrestable offense). Usually, a written warning is issued and a summons is issued only if the owner fails to heed the warning after a sufficient period of time.

Maryland (MV &amp; LE)

While there are no statistics available, it is believed that stopping a vehicle with only one plate occasionally results in arrests for other violations such as drug law infractions, DWI, and driver license violations. Wanted persons are sometimes apprehended as a result of such stops.

Massachusetts (LE)

Occasionally.

Minnesota

Occasionally, most stops that do not detect a violation other than failure to display a plate result in a warning citation.

(MV—Motor Vehicle; LE—Law Enforcement)

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Missouri (LE)	Occasionally. Probable immediate citation if willful circumvention of statute can be established (e.g., splitting plates on two vehicles); probable warning for logical explanation (e.g., recent accident).
Montana	Could issue a citation, usually a warning is issued.
Nebraska (LE)	If the officer is able to confirm it is a Nebraska license plate on the rear of the vehicle, it would constitute a stop and most probable a requirement for the motorist to attend to the violation.
Nevada	Dependent on situation. Owner may not be aware front plate is missing at time of stop.
New Brunswick	Infrequently.
New Hampshire	Occasionally.
New Jersey	Occasionally.
New Jersey (LE)	No front plate does constitute probable cause for a traffic stop and results in the issuance of a traffic summons for 39:3-33 (Requirements Concerning Markers).
New York	Frequently.
New York (LE)	8,908 traffic tickets issued for one plate in 1993 by New York State Police
North Dakota (LE)	It results in frequent stops, however, we generally issue written warning on first offense.
Ohio (LE)	Frequently. Depending on why no front plate was displayed and the jurisdiction that is stopping the vehicle would dictate whether or not the driver would be issued a citation. Ohio revised code states that the vehicle will display two plates.
Ontario	Probably, however most police officers would likely attempt to ascertain the jurisdiction that licensed the vehicle to determine if two plates are required.
Oregon	State code indicates that the plate is to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle, if one plate is required, and on the front and the rear of the vehicle if two plates are required. Lack of a front plate would not normally result in an arrest, it would normally result in a citation being issued. Failure to display plates is a Class B traffic infraction, which could result in a fine of up to \$300.00. An arrest would only occur if the violation was flagrant or there was some other problem.
Oregon (LE)	Often times it leads to other criminal arrests, stolen motor vehicle, switched license plates, suspended drivers license, etc. The offense itself is normally a warning.
Rhode Island (LE)	We occasionally make some good arrests as a result of stopping the vehicle for one plate. In many instances the particular vehicle is stolen, as well as the plate that is attached to the car when stopped.
Saskatchewan	Very infrequently would it lead to an arrest. Probably a ticket would be issued or a warning issued.
South Dakota	Occasionally through normal traffic enforcement. Plate has been lost usually.
Texas	The violation is used frequently as a probable cause for a traffic stop. In 1993, troopers issued 1,142 citations and 45,238 warnings for the violation.
Utah (LE)	Occasionally, often times a plate is lost or stolen, when this occurs a warning is issued.
Vermont	Occasionally.
Virginia (MV & LE)	Frequently.
Virginia (LE)	Actual data is not available, however, I would believe the answer would be "occasionally."

(MV—Motor Vehicle; LE—Low Enforcement)

**THE FAST TRACK TO VEHICLE SERVICES FACTS**

Washington

The usual procedure is to issue a correction notice to have the problem fixed within 10 days. The officer will follow up on the correction notice. An arrest may result, but it is infrequent.

Wisconsin

This results in occasional arrests.

Wyoming

Occasionally—Officer's discretion.

No

Connecticut

Since the state is in the process of a two-plate system, it is not likely to stop for a lack of a front plate. However, statute now dictates that any vehicle issued two plates must display them.

**5. If your jurisdiction issues two license plates, have you had any problems with a front/back plate being used on two separate vehicles for tax/fee evasion? Please explain.**

Yes

California

Occasionally, someone will use the front and rear license plates on separate vehicles in an attempt to evade registration fees and related property taxes. Usually, a registration inquiry would then reveal that the license plates belong to another vehicle, and proper enforcement would follow.

California (LE)

Some individuals have used one set of license plates on two vehicles, to avoid paying required fees. Criminals, on occasion, will take the front plate off a vehicle and attach it to the rear of another vehicle in attempt to conceal its true identity and/or avoid paying tax and fees.

California (LE)

It is a misdemeanor to display a license plate on a vehicle that was not issued for that vehicle with intent to avoid compliance with vehicle registration. This violation was cited 1,059 times by the CHP in 1993. Payment of annual registration fees is indicated by a sticker affixed to one of the two license plates, which is a deterrent to tax/fee evasion.

Colorado (LE)

People may use plates issued to one vehicle on two vehicles.

Guam (MV & LE)

The average household has an estimated two-three vehicles/household. Occasionally, one of the units are not able to pass vehicle safety inspection for various reasons, e.g. repair work is needed. Vehicle owners would still operate the vehicle on the highways, but to prevent impoundment due to expired license plates/registration, they would use one license plate from a currently registered vehicle and display it on the expired vehicle. This is done to deter enforcement/traffic officers.

Illinois (LE)

Plate shows up on one of the vehicles because it would have no validation sticker.

Iowa

A very small number of owners may try to split plates between two vehicles. This is difficult because only the rear plate is validated each year.

Kansas (LE)

Allows for identification from front of vehicle.

Maine (LE)

Maine has an excise tax, and requires proof of insurance and emission testing at the time of registration. Some individuals cannot afford the associated fees and, therefore, illegally attach registration plates to motor vehicles.

Massachusetts (LE)

Plate splitting does occur occasionally, but it is difficult because the rear plate is validated.

(MV—Motor Vehicle; LE—Law Enforcement)

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Minnesota (I.E.)  
Missouri (LE)

Minimal problem.  
This does occur occasionally, and when it can be determined nearly always results in immediate arrest.

Nevada

Unaware if this is a problem. The rear license plate requires the display of an expiration sticker.

Ohio (LE)

This is a problem whenever the public has figured out a way to save money and cheat the state. Exact figures on how many times this happens are not readily available.

Ontario

No known problem exists. However, there are no statistics to confirm this statement.

Oregon (LE)

This does occur also to avoid air quality testing requirements.

Rhode Island (I.E.)

We have had several occasions when a motorist will take the plate from one of his or her vehicles and put it on another that is not properly registered. In many cases, this is to avoid the state sales tax when purchasing a vehicle, as well as city/town property taxes.

Saskatchewan  
Texas

It happens occasionally that the second plate is illegally on another vehicle. Texas uses windshield sticker as validation for registration so problem is minimal

Vermont  
Virginia (LE)

Minor problem.  
Vehicle owners split tags to avoid paying registration or rental fees for the second vehicle.

Wyoming  
Yukon Territory

On occasion, motorist's know they may be stopped for one plate. The problem exists regardless of number of plates issued.

6. In your jurisdiction considering changing the number of license plates it presently issues to each vehicle?

Yes

Idaho (LE)  
Wisconsin

It has been considered, but currently nothing is happening. Possible change to one plate to achieve cost savings. Decision and outcome are uncertain.

Other

California

This issue has been under active consideration for several years for fiscal reasons. To date, law enforcement considerations have prevailed to retain two plates.

Colorado (I.E.)

Recent moves to save the cost of front plate were defeated in the state legislature.

Indiana

Legislation has been introduced in the past and will likely be introduced again, however, benefits have not been shown to outweigh costs.

Maine (LE)

The Maine legislature considers bills on this issue periodically and so far each has failed.

Montana

A bill was introduced in special session late 1993 to go from two to one plate. Bill did not pass.

Washington

We have considered it but law enforcement does not support it.

(MV—Motor Vehicle; LE—Law Enforcement)