

2017 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1346

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1346

2/2/2017

#27823

☐ Subcommittee

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Janette Cook

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to the display of number plates on a motorcycle.

Minutes:

Attachment # 1

Chairman Ruby opened the hearing on HB1346.

Representative Matthew Ruby, District 40, spoke to introduce and support HB 1346. He provided written testimony. See attachment #1.

Representative Nelson: Do you have any data showing the ability of the general public to read numbers tipped on the side? Sometimes the public would be reporting behavior on the part of a driver.

Matthew Ruby: I do not. I did look at other states that have this law. There are eighteen states that allow a vertical license plate, including Minnesota and Montana.

Representative Nelson: Are motorcycle license plates still embossed or smooth like the car plates are now?

Matthew Ruby: When I renewed my plate, they said that it was going to be coming.

Vice Chairman Rick C. Becker moved a DO PASS on HB 1346.
Representative Grueneich seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken. Aye 12 Nay 1 Absent 1
The motion carried.

Representative Grueneich will carry HB 1346.

Date: 2-2-17
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1346**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Becker Seconded By Grueneich

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Dan Ruby	✓		Rep. Gretchen Dobervich	A	
Vice Chair. Rick C. Becker	✓		Rep. Marvin Nelson		✓
Rep. Bert Anderson	✓				
Rep. Jim Grueneich	✓				
Rep. Terry Jones	✓				
Rep. Emily O'Brien	✓				
Rep. Mark Owens	✓				
Rep. Gary Paur	✓				
Rep. Randy Schobinger	✓				
Rep. Gary Sukut	✓				
Rep. Robin Weisz	✓				
Rep. Greg Westlind	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Grueneich

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1346: Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(12 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1346 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2017 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1346

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

HB 1346
3/2/2017
28599

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary Munder

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the display of number plates on a motorcycle.

Minutes:

Attachment #1

Chairman Laffen: Opened the hearing on HB 1346. We welcome Representative Matthew Ruby.

Representative M. Ruby: I think this is a simple bill, just adding the language vertical or horizontal. See attachment #1.

Chairman Laffen: There are a lot of custom made bikes and there is no room on some of the bikes because of big oversized tires, narrow fenders, etc. The plate then sticks out of the side of the bike, too, and is prone to get caught on things.

Representative M. Ruby: Wind sometimes will bend the horizontal plates where if it had been vertical it would have been fine.

Senator Campbell: Where is this coming from? I do agree it makes sense.

Representative M. Ruby: I felt it was just pointless. When I bought my bike I wanted it vertical and they told me I couldn't do it that way. So I did some checking and put in a bill allowing it vertically or horizontally.

Senator Rust: Did you contact the DOT about having issues with the people making the plates? Will there be an extra cost to them or have you talked to anyone at all?

Representative M. Ruby: I didn't talk to them about this but it would be the exact same plate, just turning it differently.

Senator Nelson: Is your license plate 12" off the ground? Would you have any problem combining these two bills, HB 1159 and HB 1346?

Representative M. Ruby: Yes, it would still be 12". I am not changing any regulations. No I would not have a problem with the two bills together.

Senator Clemens: One other thing we might want to consider when mounting licenses vertically are the flatbed smaller utility trailers. They have no place to mount a license except on a fender and then they mount them vertically because the plate would be sticking out otherwise. So it might make sense to add those trailers in the bill also.

Chairman Laffen: That would be an amendment if you would wish to do that and it would change the bill because right now this is just motorcycles. That would go to Conference Committee as they didn't hear that on the other side.

Senator Clemens: Is it something we should think about?

Representative M. Ruby: This was brought up on the House side, and if that is something you would want to do, it would clear it up for everyone, and I see no issue with this.

Chairman Laffen: Any other questions? None. Thank you. Any other testimony? **Closed the hearing on HB 1346.**

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

HB 1346
3/10/2017
29028

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary Munder

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the display of number plates on a motorcycle.

Minutes:

Chairman Laffen: Reopened the hearing on HB1346. Vertical license plates.

Senator Casper: Motion for a Do Pass

Senator Rust: Seconded

Chairman Laffen: Discussion?

Senator Nelson: Does this also deal with trailers?

Chairman Laffen: You were considering merging the two bills into one HB1159 and Hb1346.

Senator Nelson: Yes, but we can leave the two bills.

Chairman Laffen: Any other discussion? We have a motion for a Do Pass on HB 1346. Clerk take the roll.

Senator Clemens: I have a question. This is for bill 1346 and we are not merging?

Chairman Laffen: We are treating each bill separately.

Brady explained the amendment. Senator Clemens added that the word trailer will be added to the bill in the amendment. Discussion was held on withdrawing the motion. **Senator Clemens** said the amendment is for HB 1159.

Senator Casper withdrew the motion.

Senator Rust withdrew the second.

Chairman Laffen: We will put this on hold for now and go on to discuss HB 1159.

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

HB 1346
3/10/2017
29033

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary Munder

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the display of number plates on a motorcycle.

Minutes:

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Chairman Laffen: Reopened the hearing on HB 1346.

Senator Nelson: Made a Do Not Pass motion on HB 1346

Senator Rust: Seconded

Chairman Laffen: Any discussion? None.

Roll Call taken: Yeas-6, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

Senator Clemens will carry the bill.

Date: 3-10-17
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Enter Bill/Resolution No." HB 1346

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Rust

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Lonnie J. Laffen	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Senator Tom Campbell	✓				
Senator David Rust	✓				
Senator David Clemens	✓				
Vice Chairman Jonathan Casper	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Clemens

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1346: Transportation Committee (Sen. Laffen, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1346 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2017 TESTIMONY

HB 1346

Rep. Matthew Ruby

HB 1346
2/2/17
#1

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Transportation Committee,

This bill is very simple. It allows motorcycle owners to display their license plates vertically as well as horizontally. Eighteen other states already allow this, not including New York which allows it however you can be fined if the officer feels it is unreadable. I debated even putting this bill forward after hearing about the single license plate bill and all the concern there. I then decided to ask every sheriff, highway patrolman, and police officer in the capitol that I could find. The results came to two conclusions. They either did not know it was a law, or didn't feel having to read a vertical license plate was an issue. So I submitted the bill and upon gathering signatures I ran into my next possible issue; would there be a required change to the way the 5 numbers are displayed vertically rather than just turning them on their side? I am not proposing a change based on what I heard from the highway patrolmen, however the DOT might have concerns. Now the men and women I spoke to do not represent the views of their respectable organizations, however I would argue that their opinions might trump the heads of organizations considering they are the ones who are on the patrols and if they don't feel it's an issue, I wouldn't think there is one. I appreciate the consideration you will give you this bill and I will stand for questions.

Definitions for Rep. Owens

License plate- what ya'll in the south call "tags"

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Transportation Committee,

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