2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1118

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1118
1/9/2025

Display of temporary registration permits

9:51 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Discussion Topics:

- Temporary Registration permits

9:52 a.m. Tom Iverson, Chief of Operations, ND Highway Patrol, testified in favor #28265 and #28266.

10:12 a.m. Brad Schaffer, Driver and Vehicle Services Director, Department of Transportation, testified in favor #28279.

10:36 a.m. Chairman Ruby closed the hearing.

Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk

Suggested Amendments to HB 1118

Section 1

- Line 15 – Change “authorized car dealership” to “licensed motor vehicle dealer”

Section 2

- Remove this section of the bill and replace with the following amendment to NDCC 39-04-36

39-04-36. Transfer of registered vehicle - Removal of number plates - Transfer of number plates.

1. Whenever the ownership of a vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 39-18, or chapter 39-29.2 is transferred or assigned, the registration of the vehicle expires and the transferor shall remove the number plates.

2. Upon applying for the transfer of the registration and paying a five dollar fee, a person who transfers or assigns to another person the ownership of a registered vehicle may receive credit for the unused portion of the fees paid for the transferred vehicle. The transferor must use a number plate previously removed pursuant to subsection 1, regardless of whether there is any license fee credit remaining. If the number plate has become lost, stolen, or mutilated, the transferor may apply for duplicate plates. The department may establish procedures that permit the transferor to assign the credit to the transferee if the transferor is the spouse, a sibling, or a lineal ancestor or descendant of the transferee. Any remaining credit on a vehicle owned by a leasing company must be credited to the lessee. One-twelfth of the annual fee must be credited for each month of the registration period remaining after the month in which the transfer is made. The credit may not extend beyond the original expiration of the registration. Except as provided in section 39-04-44, the credit must be applied to the registration fees for a replacement vehicle. The transferor shall apply for the transfer of registration within thirty days of the purchase of the replacement vehicle.

3. Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, before the transferee of a registered vehicle may operate the vehicle on a highway, the transferee must apply for and obtain a new registration of the vehicle, as on an original registration. To provide the transferee adequate time to obtain a new registration, the director may provide for the

issuance of a temporary registration certificate to permit the transferee to operate the vehicle for thirty days after the date of acquisition. ~~The certificate must be printed on the reverse side of each vehicle registration card and must be available to the transferee from licensed vehicle dealers, law enforcement agencies, and motor vehicle branch offices.~~ The vehicle may be operated for five days from date of purchase without a plate or certificate of ownership if dated evidence of ownership is carried in the vehicle. The evidence of ownership must be in a form as prescribed by the department.

NORTH Dakota | Highway Patrol
Be Legendary.

Testimony
69th Legislative Assembly
House Transportation Committee
January 9, 2025

TESTIMONY OF
Major Tom Iverson

Good morning Chairman Ruby and members of the committee. My name is Tom Iverson and I serve as the chief of operations for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am here to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1118.

This bill amends NDCC 39-04-11, 39-04-36, 39-04-37, and 39-04-56 pertaining to motor vehicle registration.

One of our regional sergeants in the Bismarck office has been part of a working committee with the NDDOT. Some of the work being completed by this group addresses ongoing concerns with motor vehicle fraud, more specifically fraudulent use of temporary registration permits. The committee has also redesigned the look of the temporary registration permit to make it more clearly visible.

Section 1 of the bill identifies where the temporary registration permit needs to be displayed. The language identifies that the permit must be displayed on the lower left of the rear window. When law enforcement comes across vehicles with temporary registrations, they are quite often displayed in multiple locations. Currently, NDCC does not identify where the temporary permit must be displayed. This makes it very difficult at times for law enforcement to observe.

I have included a suggested amendment to Line 15 of Section 1 of the bill. It has been brought to my attention that the language of "authorized car dealership" should be changed to "licensed motor vehicle dealer" in an effort to stay consistent with other areas of NDCC.

Section 2 of the bill addresses NDCC 39-04-12. After further consideration, I am suggesting that section be removed and replaced with an amendment to NDCC 39-04-36. The amendment to NDCC 39-04-36 removes the antiquated process of using the reverse side of a vehicle registration card as a temporary registration permit. NDDOT provides these permits online free of charge. They can also be obtained free of charge from any NDDOT kiosk location.

Section 3 of the bill addresses the unlawful use of temporary registration permits. This section of law currently addresses such things as license plates, tabs, and registration cards. This bill adds temporary registration permits to the list. Subsection 1 states that the temporary registration must be displayed, and that the registration shall not be canceled or revoked. Subsection 2 states that the temporary registration shall not be fictitious or have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered.

Subsection 3 states that the temporary registration shall not be used by any person not entitled thereto. Subsection 4 states that the temporary registration must be surrendered to the department upon demand.

Section 4 of the bill addresses the fraudulent use of temporary registration permits by making it clear that they are not to be altered, forged, or falsified.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

NORTH Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

House Bill No. 1118

House Transportation Committee
Room 327E | January 9, 2025, 9:45 a.m.
Brad Schaffer, Motor Vehicle

Good morning, Chairperson and members of the Committee. I'm Brad Schaffer, director of Driver and Vehicle Services for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to support House Bill 1118.

House Bill 1118 proposes the removal of the 30-day temporary permit on the back of the registration card. These cards are almost impossible to trace, and often multiple copies are found within a single vehicle. Additionally, outdated registration cards can be sold to individuals who may use them for illegal activities, such as committing crimes or evading excise tax and registration fees.

In November 2015, the Motor Vehicle Division began offering a more secure option for obtaining a 30-day temporary registration card. An online system was developed to streamline the process by allowing users to enter owner and vehicle information, instantly generating a printable permit. The temporary permits are free of charge, and only one permit can be issued per vehicle. For those without internet access or a printer, 30-day permits can be printed at any of the 52 NDDOT kiosks.

Over time, this system has been continuously improved. A significant update in September 2024 allows law enforcement agencies to access and view temporary registration permits through the NDDOT website and the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) portal. Since the update, several law enforcement agencies have requested access to the system and have provided positive feedback about its effectiveness.

This bill aligns with efforts to improve transparency, security, and efficiency in the temporary vehicle registration process.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1118
1/30/2025

Relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

4:45 p.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz
Members Absent: Representative Kasper

Discussion Topics:

- 75-day permit
- Permit placement

4:45 p.m. Representative Koppelman give the committee an update on possible amendment and waiting for NDDOT to get language for possible amendment.

4:51 p.m. Chairman D. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1118
1/31/2025

Relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

9:32 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz
Members Absent: Representative Hendrix

Discussion Topics:

- Permit placement
- "Licensed motor vehicle"

9:42 a.m. Representative Koppelman moved to amend, specify placement of permit, to change to "licensed motor vehicle", and to change to a 75-day permit.

9:42 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

9:43 a.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

9:46 a.m. Representative Koppelman moved to adopt amendment LC#25.8075.01002.

9:46 a.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion.

9:46 a.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

9:49 a.m. Representative Christianson moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:49 a.m. Representative Dressler seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

9:50 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

9:50 a.m. Representative Frelich will carry the bill.

9:50 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

25.8075.01002
Title.02000

Adopted by the Transportation Committee
January 31, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

1-31-25
JB 1 of 5

HOUSE BILL NO. 1118

Introduced by

Transportation Committee

(At the request of the Highway Patrol)

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-04-11, 39-04-12, 39-04-36, 39-04-37, and 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs - Temporary registration.

Unless otherwise provided by law, an individual may not operate a vehicle on a public highway of this state unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to the vehicle by the department, and two number plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except number plates assigned to a housetrailer must be attached to the rear of the housetrailer. An individual may operate a motor vehicle on a public highway of this state with a valid temporary registration permit. A temporary registration permit obtained from the department of transportation or ~~an authorized car dealership~~ a licensed motor vehicle dealer must be displayed on the ~~lower left of the~~ rear window, the rearmost driver's side window, or in the location of the rear license plate ~~and~~. The temporary registration permit must be clearly visible and free of any obstructions~~, and clearly visible to the rear~~. Number plates assigned to a motorcycle or trailer must be attached to the rear of the motorcycle or trailer and may be displayed vertically. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle

JB 2-05

registered under the international registration plan as authorized in section 39-19-04, truck tractor, or semitrailer, the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate must be mounted in a visible manner that clearly displays the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle and the name of the state on the plate. As far as is reasonably possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice, or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license plates issued by the department are the property of the department for the period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of number plates.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-12. Contents of number plates - Size of letters and numerals on plates - Reflectorized - Tabs or stickers.

1. Number plates must be of metal or other suitable material bearing the name of the state, either in full or by abbreviation, the number of the year, the slogan "Peace Garden State" and a distinctive number for assignment to each vehicle. The distinctive number may be in figures or a combination of figures and letters and must be of a size clearly distinguishable by law enforcement officers and individuals generally. To reduce highway accidents at night all number plates and temporary registration permits must be legible for a minimum distance of one hundred feet [30.48 meters] to an approaching motorist by day or night with lawful headlight beams and without other illumination. Each plate must be treated with a reflectorized material according to the specifications prescribed by the department. The department shall furnish for each annual registration a year plate, tab, or sticker to designate the year registration. The plate, tab, or sticker must show the registration year for which issued, and is valid only for that year.

2. The department may provide to an owner of a fleet of one hundred or more vehicles number plates that are valid for as many as six consecutive years and that are exempt from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registrant shall file with the department a corporate surety bond in an amount the department determines to be reasonable and adequate, and conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period for which the number plates are valid.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-36. Transfer of registered vehicle - Removal of number plates - Transfer of number plates.

1. Whenever the ownership of a vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 39-18, or chapter 39-29.2 is transferred or assigned, the registration of the vehicle expires and the transferor shall remove the number plates.
2. Upon applying for the transfer of the registration and paying a five dollar fee, a person who transfers or assigns to another person the ownership of a registered vehicle may receive credit for the unused portion of the fees paid for the transferred vehicle. The transferor must use a number plate previously removed pursuant to subsection 1, regardless of whether there is any license fee credit remaining. If the number plate has become lost, stolen, or mutilated, the transferor may apply for duplicate plates. The department may establish procedures that permit the transferor to assign the credit to the transferee if the transferor is the spouse, a sibling, or a lineal ancestor or descendant of the transferee. Any remaining credit on a vehicle owned by a leasing company must be credited to the lessee. One-twelfth of the annual fee must be credited for each month of the registration period remaining after the month in which the transfer is made. The credit may not extend beyond the original expiration of the registration. Except as provided in section 39-04-44, the credit must be applied to the registration fees for a replacement vehicle. The transferor shall apply for the transfer of registration within thirty days of the purchase of the replacement vehicle.
3. Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, before the transferee of a registered vehicle may operate the vehicle on a highway, the transferee must apply for and obtain a new registration of the vehicle, as on an original registration. To provide the

transferee adequate time to obtain a new registration, the director may provide for the issuance of a temporary registration certificate to permit the transferee to operate the vehicle for ~~thirty~~seventy-five days after the date of acquisition. The certificate must be printed on the reverse side of each vehicle registration card and must be available to the transferee from licensed vehicle dealers, law enforcement agencies, and motor vehicle branch offices. The vehicle may be operated for five days from date of purchase without a plate or certificate of ownership if dated evidence of ownership is carried in the vehicle. The evidence of ownership must be in a form as prescribed by the department.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-37. Violations of registration provisions.

It is unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts:

1. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate, upon a highway any vehicle the registration of which has been canceled or revoked, or for which the registration fees required in this title have not been paid, or which does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon a number plate, plates, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs assigned thereto by the director for the current registration period, subject to the exemptions allowed in this title.
2. To display or cause or permit to be displayed, or to have in possession, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered.
3. To lend any registration number plate, registration card, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs to any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly permit the use of any registration number plate or registration card by any person not entitled thereto.
4. To fail or refuse to surrender to the department, upon demand, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tab which has been suspended, canceled, or revoked as is provided in this chapter.
5. To use a false or fictitious name or address in any application for the registration of any vehicle, or for any renewal or duplicate thereof, or knowingly to make a false

statement or knowingly to conceal a material fact or otherwise to commit a fraud in any application.

6. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate a motor vehicle on a highway if the owner is employed in this state on a temporary or full-time basis, is a resident of the state, and does not have a temporary registration permit when required under subsection 1 of section 39-04-18.2. As used in this subsection, the term "resident" means a resident as defined under subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-56. Altering or forging registration card - Penalty.

It is a class ~~C felony~~A misdemeanor for any person to:

1. Alter with fraudulent intent any registration card or temporary registration permit issued by the department;
2. Forge or counterfeit any registration card or temporary registration permit purporting to have been issued by the department under the provisions of this chapter;
3. Alter or falsify with fraudulent intent or forge any assignment of a registration card or temporary registration permit; or
4. Use any registration card, temporary registration permit, or assignment, knowing the same to have been altered, forged, or falsified.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1118

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.8075.01002)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1118 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

#33198

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMIT

YEAR: MAKE: VIN:

75-SAMPLE

EXPIRES:

NORTH Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

VISION ZERO
Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

VALID ONLY IN NORTH DAKOTA

Must be displayed on vehicle. Fold on dotted line and secure to rear window in plain view.

Koppelman
1118

25.8075.01000

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1118

Introduced by

Transportation Committee

(At the request of the Highway Patrol)

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-04-11, 39-04-12, 39-04-37, and 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs - Temporary registration.

Unless otherwise provided by law, an individual may not operate a vehicle on a public highway of this state unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to the vehicle by the department, and two number plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except number plates assigned to a housetrailer must be attached to the rear of the housetrailer. An individual may operate a motor vehicle on a public highway of this state with a valid temporary registration permit. A temporary registration permit obtained from the department of transportation or an authorized car dealership must be displayed on the ~~lower left of the~~ rear window, the rearmost drivers side window, or in the location of the rear license plate, and must be free of any obstructions, and clearly visible ~~to the rear~~. Number plates assigned to a motorcycle or trailer must be attached to the rear of the motorcycle or trailer and may be displayed vertically. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle registered under the international registration plan as authorized in section 39-19-04, truck tractor, or semitrailer, the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate must be mounted in a visible manner that clearly displays the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle and the name of the state on the plate. As far as is reasonably

possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice, or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license plates issued by the department are the property of the department for the period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of number plates.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-12. Contents of number plates - Size of letters and numerals on plates - Reflectorized - Tabs or stickers.

1. Number plates must be of metal or other suitable material bearing the name of the state, either in full or by abbreviation, the number of the year, the slogan "Peace Garden State" and a distinctive number for assignment to each vehicle. The distinctive number may be in figures or a combination of figures and letters and must be of a size clearly distinguishable by law enforcement officers and individuals generally. To reduce highway accidents at night all number plates and temporary registration permits must be legible for a minimum distance of one hundred feet [30.48 meters] to an approaching motorist by day or night with lawful headlight beams and without other illumination. Each plate must be treated with a reflectorized material according to the specifications prescribed by the department. The department shall furnish for each annual registration a year plate, tab, or sticker to designate the year registration. The plate, tab, or sticker must show the registration year for which issued, and is valid only for that year.
2. The department may provide to an owner of a fleet of one hundred or more vehicles number plates that are valid for as many as six consecutive years and that are exempt from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registrant shall file with the department a corporate surety bond in an amount the department determines to be reasonable and adequate, and conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period for which the number plates are valid.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-37. Violations of registration provisions.

It is unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts:

1. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate, upon a highway any vehicle the registration of which has been canceled or revoked, or for which the registration fees required in this title have not been paid, or which does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon a number plate, plates, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs assigned thereto by the director for the current registration period, subject to the exemptions allowed in this title.
2. To display or cause or permit to be displayed, or to have in possession, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered.
3. To lend any registration number plate, registration card, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs to any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly permit the use of any registration number plate or registration card by any person not entitled thereto.
4. To fail or refuse to surrender to the department, upon demand, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tab which has been suspended, canceled, or revoked as is provided in this chapter.
5. To use a false or fictitious name or address in any application for the registration of any vehicle, or for any renewal or duplicate thereof, or knowingly to make a false statement or knowingly to conceal a material fact or otherwise to commit a fraud in any application.
6. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate a motor vehicle on a highway if the owner is employed in this state on a temporary or full-time basis, is a resident of the state, and does not have a temporary registration permit when required under subsection 1 of section 39-04-18.2. As used in this subsection, the term "resident" means a resident as defined under subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-56. Altering or forging registration card - Penalty.

It is a class C felony for any person to:

1. Alter with fraudulent intent any registration card or temporary registration permit issued by the department;
2. Forge or counterfeit any registration card or temporary registration permit purporting to have been issued by the department under the provisions of this chapter;
3. Alter or falsify with fraudulent intent or forge any assignment of a registration card or temporary registration permit; or
4. Use any registration card, temporary registration permit, or assignment, knowing the same to have been altered, forged, or falsified.

Kopperman
1118

39-04-36. Transfer of registered vehicle - Removal of number plates - Transfer of number plates.

1. Whenever the ownership of a vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 39-18, or chapter 39-29.2 is transferred or assigned, the registration of the vehicle expires and the transferor shall remove the number plates.
2. Upon applying for the transfer of the registration and paying a five dollar fee, a person who transfers or assigns to another person the ownership of a registered vehicle may receive credit for the unused portion of the fees paid for the transferred vehicle. The transferor must use a number plate previously removed pursuant to subsection 1, regardless of whether there is any license fee credit remaining. If the number plate has become lost, stolen, or mutilated, the transferor may apply for duplicate plates. The department may establish procedures that permit the transferor to assign the credit to the transferee if the transferor is the spouse, a sibling, or a lineal ancestor or descendant of the transferee. Any remaining credit on a vehicle owned by a leasing company must be credited to the lessee. One-twelfth of the annual fee must be credited for each month of the registration period remaining after the month in which the transfer is made. The credit may not extend beyond the original expiration of the registration. Except as provided in section 39-04-44, the credit must be applied to the registration fees for a replacement vehicle. The transferor shall apply for the transfer of registration within thirty days of the purchase of the replacement vehicle.
3. Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, before the transferee of a registered vehicle may operate the vehicle on a highway, the transferee must apply for and obtain a new registration of the vehicle, as on an original registration. To provide the transferee adequate time to obtain a new registration, the director may provide for the issuance of a temporary registration certificate to permit the transferee to operate the vehicle for seventy-five ~~thirty~~ days after the date of acquisition. The certificate must be printed on the reverse side of each vehicle registration card and must be available to the transferee from licensed vehicle dealers, law enforcement agencies, and motor vehicle branch offices. The vehicle may be operated for five days from date of purchase without a plate or certificate of ownership if dated evidence of ownership is carried in the vehicle. The evidence of ownership must be in a form as prescribed by the department.

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1118

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1118
2/20/2025

Relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

11:01 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Current penalties for failure to display
- Deadlines for displaying permits
- Proposed amendment regarding registration card printing

11:02 a.m. Evan Savageau, Sergeant, ND Highway Patrol, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38221.

11:22 a.m. Brad Schaffer, Director of Driver and Vehicle Services, NDDOT, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38103.

11:24 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

11:25 a.m. Senator Klein moved Amendment LC#25.8075.02001.

11:25 a.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

11:26 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass as Amended.

11:27 a.m. Senator Paulson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y

Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Paulson will carry the bill.

11:28 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

25.8075.02001
Title.03000

Adopted by the Senate Transportation Committee
February 20, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

HD
2/20/25
page 1 of 3

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1118

Introduced by

Transportation Committee

(At the request of the Highway Patrol)

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-04-11, 39-04-12, 39-04-36, 39-04-37, and 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to display of temporary registration permits; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs - Temporary registration.

Unless otherwise provided by law, an individual may not operate a vehicle on a public highway of this state unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to the vehicle by the department, and two number plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except number plates assigned to a housetrailer must be attached to the rear of the housetrailer. An individual may operate a motor vehicle on a public highway of this state with a valid temporary registration permit. A temporary registration permit obtained from the department of transportation or a licensed motor vehicle dealer must be displayed on the rear window, the rearmost driver's side window, or in the location of the rear license plate. The temporary registration permit must be clearly visible and free of any obstructions. Number plates assigned to a motorcycle or trailer must be attached to the rear of the motorcycle or trailer and may be displayed vertically. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle registered under the international registration plan as authorized in section

39-19-04, truck tractor, or semitrailer, the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate must be mounted in a visible manner that clearly displays the distinctive number assigned to the vehicle and the name of the state on the plate. As far as is reasonably possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice, or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license plates issued by the department are the property of the department for the period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of number plates.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-12. Contents of number plates - Size of letters and numerals on plates - Reflectorized - Tabs or stickers.

1. Number plates must be of metal or other suitable material bearing the name of the state, either in full or by abbreviation, the number of the year, the slogan "Peace Garden State" and a distinctive number for assignment to each vehicle. The distinctive number may be in figures or a combination of figures and letters and must be of a size clearly distinguishable by law enforcement officers and individuals generally. To reduce highway accidents at night all number plates and temporary registration permits must be legible for a minimum distance of one hundred feet [30.48 meters] to an approaching motorist by day or night with lawful headlight beams and without other illumination. Each plate must be treated with a reflectorized material according to the specifications prescribed by the department. The department shall furnish for each annual registration a year plate, tab, or sticker to designate the year registration. The plate, tab, or sticker must show the registration year for which issued, and is valid only for that year.
2. The department may provide to an owner of a fleet of one hundred or more vehicles number plates that are valid for as many as six consecutive years and that are exempt

from the requirements of evidence of annual validation. The registrant shall file with the department a corporate surety bond in an amount the department determines to be reasonable and adequate, and conditioned that the owner will pay the annual fee at the beginning of each annual registration period for which the number plates are valid.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-36. Transfer of registered vehicle - Removal of number plates - Transfer of number plates.

1. Whenever the ownership of a vehicle registered under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 39-18, or chapter 39-29.2 is transferred or assigned, the registration of the vehicle expires and the transferor shall remove the number plates.
2. Upon applying for the transfer of the registration and paying a five dollar fee, a person who transfers or assigns to another person the ownership of a registered vehicle may receive credit for the unused portion of the fees paid for the transferred vehicle. The transferor must use a number plate previously removed pursuant to subsection 1, regardless of whether there is any license fee credit remaining. If the number plate has become lost, stolen, or mutilated, the transferor may apply for duplicate plates. The department may establish procedures that permit the transferor to assign the credit to the transferee if the transferor is the spouse, a sibling, or a lineal ancestor or descendant of the transferee. Any remaining credit on a vehicle owned by a leasing company must be credited to the lessee. One-twelfth of the annual fee must be credited for each month of the registration period remaining after the month in which the transfer is made. The credit may not extend beyond the original expiration of the registration. Except as provided in section 39-04-44, the credit must be applied to the registration fees for a replacement vehicle. The transferor shall apply for the transfer of registration within thirty days of the purchase of the replacement vehicle.
3. Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, before the transferee of a registered vehicle may operate the vehicle on a highway, the transferee must apply for and obtain a new registration of the vehicle, as on an original registration. To provide the transferee adequate time to obtain a new registration, the director may provide for the issuance of a temporary registration certificate to permit the transferee to operate the

vehicle for ~~thirty~~seventy-five days after the date of acquisition. ~~The certificate must be printed on the reverse side of each vehicle registration card and must be available to the transferee from licensed vehicle dealers, law enforcement agencies, and motor vehicle branch offices.~~ The vehicle may be operated for five days from date of purchase without a plate or certificate of ownership if dated evidence of ownership is carried in the vehicle. The evidence of ownership must be in a form as prescribed by the department.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-37. Violations of registration provisions.

It is unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts:

1. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate, upon a highway any vehicle the registration of which has been canceled or revoked, or for which the registration fees required in this title have not been paid, or which does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon a number plate, plates, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs assigned thereto by the director for the current registration period, subject to the exemptions allowed in this title.
2. To display or cause or permit to be displayed, or to have in possession, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered.
3. To lend any registration number plate, registration card, temporary registration permit, or validation tabs to any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly permit the use of any registration number plate or registration card by any person not entitled thereto.
4. To fail or refuse to surrender to the department, upon demand, any registration card, registration number plate, temporary registration permit, or validation tab which has been suspended, canceled, or revoked as is provided in this chapter.
5. To use a false or fictitious name or address in any application for the registration of any vehicle, or for any renewal or duplicate thereof, or knowingly to make a false statement or knowingly to conceal a material fact or otherwise to commit a fraud in any application.

6. To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit anyone to operate a motor vehicle on a highway if the owner is employed in this state on a temporary or full-time basis, is a resident of the state, and does not have a temporary registration permit when required under subsection 1 of section 39-04-18.2. As used in this subsection, the term "resident" means a resident as defined under subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-56. Altering or forging registration card - Penalty.

It is a class ~~C felony~~A misdemeanor for any person to:

1. Alter with fraudulent intent any registration card or temporary registration permit issued by the department;
2. Forge or counterfeit any registration card or temporary registration permit purporting to have been issued by the department under the provisions of this chapter;
3. Alter or falsify with fraudulent intent or forge any assignment of a registration card or temporary registration permit; or
4. Use any registration card, temporary registration permit, or assignment, knowing the same to have been altered, forged, or falsified.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1118

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.8075.02001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1118 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

NORTH Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

House Bill No. 1118

Senate Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room | February 20, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Brad Schaffer, Motor Vehicle

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Brad Schaffer, Director of Driver and Vehicle Services for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to support House Bill 1118.

In November 2015, the Motor Vehicle Division began offering a more secure option for obtaining a 30-day temporary registration card. An online system was developed to streamline the process by allowing users to enter owner and vehicle information, instantly generating a printable permit. The temporary permits are free of charge, and only one permit can be issued per vehicle. For those without internet access or a printer, 30-day permits can be printed at any of the 52 NDDOT kiosks.

A significant update in September 2024 allows law enforcement agencies to access and view temporary registration permits through both the NDDOT website and the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) portal. Since the update, several law enforcement agencies have requested access to the system and have provided positive feedback about the effectiveness.

The House amended the 30-day permit to extend it to 75 days, ensuring consistency with the temporary permits that are issued by auto dealers.

This bill aligns with efforts to improve transparency, security, and efficiency in the temporary vehicle registration process.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

NORTH Dakota | Highway Patrol
Be Legendary.

Testimony
69th Legislative Assembly
Senate Transportation Committee
February 20, 2025

TESTIMONY OF
Sergeant Evan Savageau

Good morning Chairman Clemens and members of the committee. My name is Evan Savageau and I serve as the planning officer for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am here to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1118.

This bill amends NDCC 39-04-11, 39-04-12, 39-04-36, 39-04-37, and 39-04-56 pertaining to motor vehicle registration.

One of our regional sergeants in the Bismarck office has been part of a working committee with the NDDOT. Some of the work being completed by this group addresses ongoing concerns with motor vehicle fraud, more specifically fraudulent use of temporary registration permits. The committee has also redesigned the look of the temporary registration permit to make it more clearly visible.

Section 1 of the bill identifies where the temporary registration permit needs to be displayed. The language identifies that the permit must be displayed on the rear window, the rearmost driver's side window, or in the location of the rear license plate. When law enforcement comes across vehicles with temporary registrations, they are quite often displayed in multiple locations. Currently, NDCC does not identify where the temporary permit must be displayed. This makes it very difficult at times for law enforcement to observe.

Section 2 of the bill addresses NDCC 39-04-12. While providing testimony to the House Transportation Committee, Major Iverson suggested that section be removed as it is not realistic to require the temporary registration to be legible up to 100 feet during the night.

Section 3 of the bill addresses NDCC 39-04-36. While providing testimony to the House Transportation Committee, there was support to increase the number of days a temporary registration certificate was valid. After discussion, it was agreed upon to increase the number of days from 30 to 75 days.

Additionally, I am suggesting an amendment to Section 3 of this bill. The amendment simply strikes out, "The certificate must be printed on the reverse side of each vehicle registration card and must be available to the transferee from licensed vehicle dealers, law enforcement agencies, and motor vehicle branch offices." This is on lines 30-31 on Page 3 and lines 1-2 on Page 4. This amendment removes the antiquated process of using the reverse side of a vehicle registration card as a temporary registration permit. NDDOT provides these permits online free of charge. They can also be obtained free of charge from any NDDOT kiosk location. This amendment was brought forth to the House Transportation Committee, but was inadvertently missed when the bill was amended.

Section 4 of the bill addresses the unlawful use of temporary registration permits. This section of law currently addresses such things as license plates, tabs, and registration cards. This bill adds temporary registration permits to the list. Subsection 1 states that the temporary registration must be displayed, and that the registration shall not be canceled or revoked. Subsection 2 states that the temporary registration shall not be fictitious or have been canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered. Subsection 3 states that the temporary registration shall not be used by any person not entitled thereto. Subsection 4 states that the temporary registration must be surrendered to the department upon demand.

Section 5 of the bill addresses the fraudulent use of temporary registration permits by making it clear that they are not to be altered, forged, or falsified.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMIT

YEAR: MAKE: VIN:

30-SAMPLE

EXPIRES:

NORTH Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

VISION ZERO
Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

VALID ONLY IN NORTH DAKOTA

Must be displayed on vehicle. Fold on dotted line and secure to rear window in plain view.