

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1256

2005 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1256

## 2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

### BILL NO. 1256

#### House Transportation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 20, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
4	X		33.4-52.5
5	X		0-5.4

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Weisz** opened the hearing on HB 1256 A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-04-08, 39-04-10.4, and 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to number plates.

**Rep. Wes Belter:**(33.0) This bill you have seen in the past if you have been on the committee a number of years. What this bill does is changes the requirement of having two licenses on a vehicle and only having one on the rear of the vehicle.(Handout given out) There are currently 28 states that do not require a front license plate. Why do we in North Dakota continue to have two license plates on our vehicles? New vehicles do not have a place for a license plate. Dealers have to drill through the front bumper to put on a plate. There is a fiscal note on this bill. It is not a large savings, but it is a savings. I don't know in North Dakota when we are going to do a new issue of a license plate; it has been talked about during the last 5 or 6 sessions. That would be a time for us to increase our savings. Front plates usually covered with bugs or bent from

snow banks or bent from hitting the curb. Look on page 2, it says a plate at all times must be kept free of mud, ice and snow and clearly visible. That is not always the case. Even cars passing me, you could not even read the rear license plate, because of the build up of snow and ice. I have heard in the pass that it is very important to law enforcement, but my question is, if 28 other states are doing it, it is less important in North Dakota. At the time of a crime, how many criminals are going to flee from a crime scene in reverse? Not very likely. When you are going down the interstate, you can't read the east or west bound traffic. I think that during a crime, if the citizen only remembers what color it is and how many people in it or a two or four door. It is quite unlikely to get a license plate; not alone a front license plate. I have 6 trucks on my farm and current law already requires only one license plate on those vehicles; yet, when I apply for new plates, they send me two because that is what the law says? I only put the front one and leave the back one off because there is so much mud on them. It is an unnecessary expense and I think we should follow with 28 other states that don't have that front plate. If you look through that booklet there are several states that require front plates, but don't require a tab for that front plate. So if authorities in those states saw the front plate they would not know if they had current tags or not. I would hope that you would give this serious consideration. However, I would like you to keep in mind that we are in need of matching highway funds and it might be before this session is over that the issuance of a new license plate maybe a way to raise a million dollars or so, if we thought a new plate was necessary.

**Chairman Weisz**(41.0)If we do a new issue, who much money the state would have?

**Rep. Belter:** I visited with Keith Kiser, and just off the top of his head, that he was talking about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars. I am sorry that I did not research it. I can get that information from him.

**Rep. Weiler**(41.9) The fiscal note, I noticed is a savings. Why wouldn't the savings be passed on to the consumer?

**Rep. Belter:** I would think that the people would be thrilled with the thought of only putting on one plate and one tab that they would gladly forgo the little they would save because of the convenience of just having one plate.

**Chairman Weisz** Any other support of HB 1256? Mr. Kiser so you have any other comments on this bill?

**Keith Kiser:** (44.4) DOT. Department does not take a position on this bill one way or another.

**Chairman Weisz** Can you tell us, if we would do a new issue, how much would be saved by a single plate versus a double plate?

**Keith Kiser:** (45.1) \$537,000. I just checked on that. I did that on projected costs for license plates that I got from Roughrider Industries. Fiscal note is based on past history of how many plates we buy each year. Net savings is about \$40,000. We will have a higher cost of postage, because they would increase possibly because of the pounds being shipped.

**Chairman Weisz** Any more support on HB 1256. Anyone here in opposition of HB 1256?

**Sen Trenbeath:** I think all that needs to be said has been said. I am in favor of the bill. I don't see anything from law enforcement showing we need double plates. Putting two holes in the front of a new car for a license plate is one reason we should not have a front plate.

**Senator Espgaard:** I think everything has been said about the bill that needs to be said. (52.6)

**Tape 5 Side A 0-**

I support the bill.

**Chairman Weisz** Testimony in opposition of HB 1256.

**Colonel Klipfel ND Highway Patrol**(0.8) (see attached testimony)

**Chairman Weisz** Any questions.

**Rep. Vigesaa** (2.9) Colonel, dealer demonstrators are not required to have two license plates.

Has there been a problem with this?

**Colonel Klipfel:** I don't think that has been a problem. There are not that many dealers in the state. You are going to have some vehicles that have the front plate missing anyway. Not an issue.

**Rep. Thorpe** You must have good equipment to read the plates in an oncoming four lane situation? Can you read them accurately?

**Colonel Klipfel:** It is very difficult to read the license plate on a four lane divided highway.

You can see if it is ND or Washington or Minnesota or the type of plate. On a two lane road you can sometimes read the front license plate or if they are parked some place.

**Rep. Thorpe** (4.5) Do you have a real heartburn over this?

**Colonel Klipfel:** I have no problem with it either way. We can work with one or two.

**Chairman Weisz** Any further opposition to HB 1256?

Closed hearing (5.4)

## 2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

### BILL NO. HB 1256

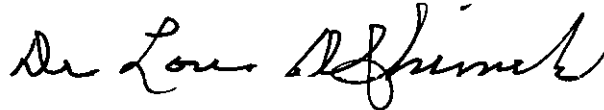
#### House Transportation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 3, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		8.8-17.7

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Weisz** reopened hearing on HB 1256. Any more discussion on this. It has a \$25,000 fiscal note so it is not much revenue.

**Rep. Iverson**(9.5) From a cosmetic point of view it is putting a hole in a 40,000 vehicle. The new designs are very streamline and it is painful to drill out a hole in a new car. The designs do not lend to a front bumper.

**Rep. Owens**(10.1) My wife has a card with a black plastic plate in the front that says pontac and left that thing in and had just the rear license plate. Lots of people are just ignoring the law now.

**Rep. Vigesaa** Why would dealers when they know what the states require not make allowances for it. They do allow for the plates. They put two little marks where you are to put the plates so they know that the states have the law and they are providing a place for the plate. Without the plates you can not even tell it.

**Rep. Owens:** A lot of the two plates started in the 60's and it was the law enforcement issues.

People would drive up behind a policeman and crowd them and it was easier for them to require a front license plate and they could do a check of the car even though they were in front of the car rather than behind.

**Rep. Hawken:** Why are states going now to two plates because there are a number of states that have now gone to them. Is the amber alert or the gas stations where people are leaving without paying?

**Rep. Dosch(13.2)** Local police officers definitely see a value in having the front plates on vehicles. Probably not on the highways.

**Chairman Weisz**Any further discussion?

**Rep. Price**

If you check the fiscal note it says it will cost Roughrider Industries \$121,000 in loss revenue.

**Motion Made By Rep. Price Seconded By Rep. Hawken**

**DO NOT PASS    7 Yes 4 No 4 Absent    Carrier: Rep. Price**

**Cosed(17.7)**



**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
01/19/2005

**REVISION**

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1256

**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.*

2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$24,885		\$24,885
Expenditures			(\$39,500)		(\$39,500)
Appropriations			(\$39,500)		(\$39,500)

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

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
			\$9,085	\$5,530		\$9,085	\$5,530	

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

It is anticipated that NDDOT would save approximately \$121,000 in license plate purchasing costs during the next biennium and approximately \$1,500 in shipping costs if this bill passes. Based on current mailing rates, we also anticipate an \$83,000 increase in postage expenses to mail these licenses plates if the is bill passes. The increase results from not having enough weight in our daily mailings to qualify for bulk postage discounts that we currently qualify for. The net savings from passage of this bill is estimated to be \$39,500 per biennium.

It should be noted the savings in purchasing license plates will reduce revenue to Rough Rider Industries by the same amount (\$121,000).

**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.*

**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.*

**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.*

Name: Keith Kiser

Agency: NDDOT



**Phone Number:** 328-2725

**Date Prepared:** 01/21/2005



**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
01/12/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1256

**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.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues					\$24,885	\$24,885
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

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

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
			\$9,085	\$5,530		\$9,085	\$5,530	

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

It is anticipated that NDDOT would save approximately \$121,000 in license plate purchasing costs during the next biennium and approximately \$1,500 in shipping costs if this bill passes. Based on current mailing rates, we also anticipate an \$83,000 increase in postage expenses to mail these license plates if the bill passes. The increase results from not having enough weight in our daily mailings to qualify for bulk postage discounts that we currently qualify for. The net savings from passage of this bill is estimated to be \$39,500 per biennium.

It should be noted the savings in purchasing license plates will reduce revenue to Rough Rider Industries by the same amount (\$121,000).

**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.*

**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.*

**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.*

Name: Keith Kiser  
Phone Number: 328-2725

Agency: NDDOT  
Date Prepared: 01/18/2005

Date: 2-3-05  
Roll Call Vote #:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1256 HB

House Transportation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken *Does Not Pass*

Motion Made By *Rep Price* Seconded By *Rep. Hawken*

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Weisz - Chairman		✓	Rep. Delmore	✓	
Rep. Hawken - Vice Chair.	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. Bernstein		✓	Rep. Schmidt	✓	
Rep. Dosch	✓		Rep. Thorpe		✓
Rep. Iverson	<i>abs</i>				
Rep. Kelsch	<i>abs</i>				
Rep. Owens		✓			
Rep. Price	✓				
Rep. Ruby	<i>abs</i>				
Rep. Vigasaa	✓				
Rep. Weiler	<i>abs</i>				

Total (Yes) 7 No 4

Absent 4

Floor Assignment

*Rep. Vigasaa Price (chr changed) 2/4/05 PM*

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
February 4, 2005 12:36 p.m.

**Module No: HR-23-1890**  
**Carrier: Price**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1256: Transportation Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS**  
(7 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1256 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1256

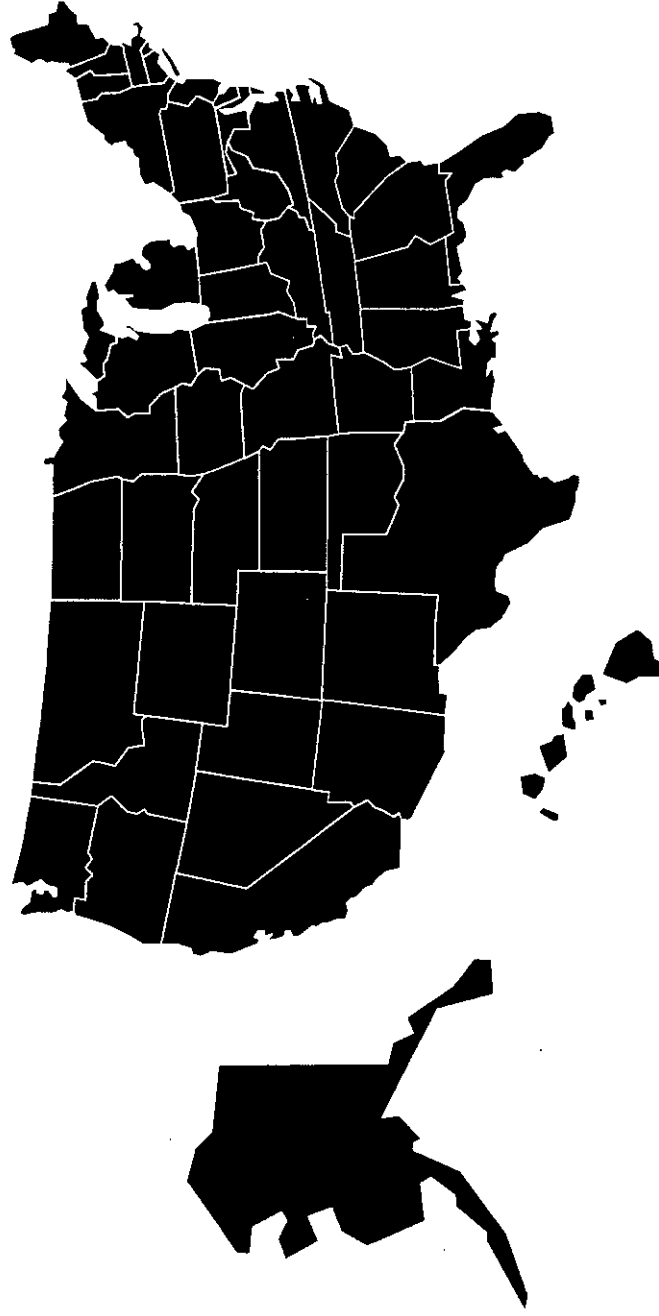
# *Number of License Plates per Vehicle*



Two Plates



One Plate



## Why keep the front plate?

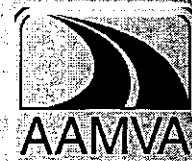
- 31 US states and the District of Columbia require front and rear plates, including all N.D. border states. Please refer to the state map attached.
- Compared to the estimated savings of \$39,500 from the Fiscal Note, the realized value of having two plates far outweighs the cost savings.
- Numerous service stations rely upon video cameras to monitor gas pump activity similar to law enforcement's use of cameras at intersections for traffic violations. The ND Petroleum Marketers Association supports the use of two plates.
- The use of two license plates is an effective tool for crime fighting as well as a safety device. The ND Highway Patrol along with the ND Peace Officers Association and the ND Sheriffs supports the use of two plates.
- Of more than 3.8 million miles of roadway in this country, less than 10% is four or more lane divided highway. The balance is two-way. Keeping the license information on the front of the car is very important.
- Because officers in squad cars see only a few rear license plates (few people overtake and pass moving squad cars – even squad cars traveling below the posted limit), officers have come to depend on the front plate out there in oncoming traffic. They instinctively check front plates.
- Increasingly, license plates are used by neighborhood watch associations to report suspicious activities. A front plate is often the only plate that is easily visible to a citizen observer.
- Because it is usually positioned at or near the point of impact, the front plate and the impression it leaves on the struck object are important in the field of accident reconstruction. The impression is a real clue that can be measured and can help determine the point of impact.
- Many hit-and-run accidents have been solved when the front plate stayed at the scene as accident debris after the car and its driver departed.
- Increasingly, police are using laser systems to measure speed. The reflective surface of the front plate allows the laser to work at a much greater range, giving the officer more time to get an accurate reading.
- The fully reflective front plate provides a third point of reference on the front of a car at night. Even if the vehicle is parked at the curb, the fully reflective front plate acts as a warning device. It sends light from the headlamps of an oncoming car back to the driver of that car. In most cases, it is the only reflector on the front end of the car.
- The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) endorses the concept of a uniform motor vehicle registration license plate system. In addition, AAMVA recommends, in its 2004 policy statement, that member jurisdictions adopt the following standards: "Two license plates should be issued for all passenger type vehicles and single unit trucks. One plate can be issued for tractors, motorcycles, and all types of trailers."
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 2002 Resolution provided that the IACP recognizes that the efficient and reliable identification of vehicles is a critical element of national and state security procedures. Further, the resolution supports the issuance of fully-reflective, front and rear license plates with clearly identifiable registration numbers and state of registration, and urges that states periodically issue new plates to maintain effective vehicle identification and to protect the security and integrity of the vehicle registration process.

**PLEASE GIVE HB 1256 A DO NOT PASS RECOMMENDATION**



# ***THE FAST TRACK ■ TO ■ VEHICLE SERVICES FACTS***

**A Motor Vehicle Regulations  
and Procedures Information  
Guide**



**American Association of  
Motor Vehicle Administrators**

**2003 Edition**

## Section 4: License Plates

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

*One — 28 jurisdictions*

Alabama	Kansas	Oklahoma
Alberta	Kentucky	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Louisiana	Prince Edward Island
Arkansas	Manitoba	Quebec
Connecticut	Michigan	South Carolina
Delaware	Mississippi	Tennessee
Florida	New Mexico	West Virginia
Georgia	North Carolina	Yukon Territory
Idaho	Northwest Territories	
Indiana	Nova Scotia	

*Two — 38 jurisdictions*

Alaska	Massachusetts	Ontario
British Columbia	Minnesota	Oregon
California	Missouri	Rhode Island
Colorado	Montana	Saskatchewan
Connecticut	Nebraska	South Dakota
District of Columbia	Nevada	Texas
Hawaii	New Brunswick	Utah
Idaho	New Hampshire	Vermont
Illinois	New Jersey	Virginia
Iowa	New York	Washington
Maine	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Manitoba	Nova Scotia	Wyoming
Maryland	Ohio	

#### Comments

Alberta	Personalized plates are issued in pairs.
Arizona	Personalized plates and special plates.
British Columbia	One plate for motorcycle, ATV (restricted), trailer, manufacturer, demonstration, transporter, repairman and vintage.
California	One plate for truck tractors, trailers, motorcycles and special equipment.
Colorado	Except for proportionally registered vehicles, non-motorized vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles or mopeds.
Delaware	Personalized plates are issued with an association to the license number plate.
Florida	Two plates are required on trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 lbs. or more.
Georgia	Exceptions are disabled veterans, handicapped veterans plates
Idaho	One plate only for motorcycles, ATVs or semi-trailers; vehicles operated by a manufacturer, repossession agent, or dealer; vehicles displaying year of manufacture, street rod, old timer or classic plates.
Kansas	Personalized are issued in pairs. The auto owner has the option to display one or both plates. (2002 legislation).
Maryland	One plate only for trailers, motorcycles and tractor-trailers.

Michigan	Owners may purchase one or two Personalized plates.
Minnesota	For most vehicles.
Mississippi	Personalized plates may be issued in pairs.
Missouri	Only one for trailers, trucks over 12,000 lbs., motorcycles, motor-tricycles, and buses.
New York	One plate for trailers, motorcycles, and all terrain vehicles.
Oregon	Only one for trailers, motorcycles and mopeds, decal for snowmobiles.
Saskatchewan	Only one plate for motorcycles, snowmobiles, trailers, power units, and dealers.
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, ATVs, 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	Florida*	Nevada
Alberta	Georgia	Nova Scotia
Arizona	Hawaii	Ohio
British Columbia	Illinois	Ontario
California	Iowa	Saskatchewan
Colorado	Manitoba	Utah
Connecticut	Maryland	Wisconsin
Delaware	Massachusetts	

\* For heavy trucks 26,001 pounds or more only, decal is placed on front license plate.

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

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

### Comments

British Columbia	Vehicles with GNW greater than 5500kg and buses require decal on front plate.
California	Truck tractors are authorized by code to carry one plate on the front of the vehicle. In this case, the decal is on the front plate.
Montana	Depending on current legislative bill to remove front plate.
New Jersey	NJ does issue plate decals for passenger plates as well as commercial plates. Decals indicate month and year of registration expiration. Decals are placed on both front and rear license plates.

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:

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

#### 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	<b>Infrequently</b> results in arrests. 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	<b>Never</b> results in an arrest.
California	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 <b>occasionally</b> lead to an arrest for a subsequent violation of law (i.e., DUI, vehicle theft, etc.).
California (LE)	<b>On occasion</b> , 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)	<b>Frequently</b> : 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 if <b>infrequent</b> . 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 & LE)	<b>Frequently</b> : Two license plates are required by the laws of Guam. Having/using only one would result in a violation of the law and therefore would be means of arrest.
Hawaii	<b>No arrest</b> , citation issued or warning provided.
Idaho (LE)	<b>Occasionally</b> : 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)	<b>Infrequently</b>
Iowa	<b>Infrequently</b> : The driver only would be arrested if he/she refused to sign the traffic ticket or was wanted on another charge.
Manitoba	<b>Occasionally</b> .
Maine	<b>Infrequently</b> : First time is generally a warning.
Maine	The standard for the vehicle stop is articulable suspicion. A stop for this infraction <b>occasionally</b> results in a summons being issued.
Maine (LE)	Failure to display a front plate in Maine is a traffic infraction (non-arrestable offense). <b>Usually</b> , 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&LE)	While there are no statistics available, it is believed that stopping a vehicle with only one plate <b>occasionally</b> results in arrests for other violations such as drug law infractions, DWI, and driver's license violations. Wanted persons are sometimes apprehended as a result of such stops.
Massachusetts (LE)	<b>Occasionally</b> .
Minnesota	<b>Occasionally</b> : most stops that do not detect a violation other than failure to display a plate result in a warning citation.
Missouri (LE)	<b>Occasionally</b> : 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 <b>probable</b> a requirement for the motorist to attend to the violation.
Nevada	
New Brunswick	<b>Infrequently</b> .

New Hampshire	Yes.
New Jersey	<b>Occasionally.</b>
New Jersey (LE)	No front plate does constitute <b>probable</b> cause for a traffic stop and results in the issuance of a traffic summons for 39:3-33 (Requirements Concerning Markers).
New York	<b>Frequently.</b>
New York (LE)	8,908 traffic tickets issued for one plate in 1993 by New York State Police.
North Dakota (LE)	It results in <b>frequent</b> stops; however, we generally issue written warning on first offense.
Ohio (LE)	<b>Frequently:</b> 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	<b>Probably:</b> 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 <b>not normally</b> 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 driver's license, etc. The offense itself is normally a warning.
Rhode Island (LE)	We <b>occasionally</b> 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	<b>Very infrequently</b> would it lead to an arrest; probably a ticket would be issued or a warning issued.
South Dakota	<b>Occasionally</b> through normal traffic enforcement; plate has been lost usually.
Texas	The violation is used <b>frequently</b> as a probable cause for a traffic stop. In 1993, troopers issued 1,142 citations and 45,238 warnings for the violation.
Utah (LE)	<b>Occasionally:</b> often times a plate is lost or stolen, when this occurs a warning is issued.
Vermont	<b>Occasionally.</b>
Virginia (MV&LE)	<b>Frequently.</b>
Virginia (LE)	Actual data is not available; however, I would believe the answer would be " <b>occasionally.</b> "
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 <b>infrequent</b> .
Wisconsin	This results in <b>occasional</b> arrests.
Wyoming	<b>Occasionally</b> – officer's discretion.
<u>No</u>	
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.

(MV – Motor Vehicle; LE – Law Enforcement)

**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 an 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 to 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.
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.
Minnesota (LE)	Minimal problem.
Missouri (LE)	This does occur occasionally, and when it can be determined nearly always results in immediate arrest.
Nevada	
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 (LE)	We have had several occasions when a motorist will take the plate from one of this 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	It happens occasionally that the second plate is illegally on another vehicle.
Texas	Texas uses windshield sticker as validation for registration so problem is minimal.
Vermont	Minor problem.
Virginia (LE)	Vehicle owners split tags to avoid paying registration or rental fees for the second vehicle.

Wyoming  
Yukon Territory

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

(MV – Motor Vehicle; LE – Law Enforcement)

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

Yes

Idaho (LE)  
Vermont  
Wisconsin

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

Other

California  
  
Colorado (LE)  
  
Indiana  
  
Maine (LE)  
  
Montana  
  
Washington  
West Virginia

This issue has been under active consideration for several years for fiscal reasons. To date, law enforcement considerations have prevailed to retain two plates.  
Recent moves to save the cost of front plate were defeated in the state legislature.  
Legislation has been introduced in the past and will likely be introduced again; however, benefits have not been shown to outweigh costs.  
The Maine legislature considers bills on this issue periodically and so far each has failed.  
No, a bill was introduced in special session late 1993 to go from two to one plate. The bill did not pass. Law enforcement would never support one plate.  
We have considered it but law enforcement does not support it.  
No

(MV – Motor Vehicle; LE – Law Enforcement)

**7. Do the license plates remain with the vehicle or owner?**

Vehicle

Alaska  
Arizona  
California (MV & LE)  
  
  
Delaware  
Guam (MV & LE)  
Hawaii  
  
  
Kentucky

Exception for personalized plates.  
License plates remain with the vehicle except for personalized and other special plates that are owned by the individual. Personalized and special plates can be retained by an individual and transferred to another vehicle owned by the same individual.  
In most instances, owner has the option of retaining the plate for a fee.  
License plates remain with the vehicle except for personalized and other special plates that are owned by the individual. Personalized and special plates can be retained by an individual and transferred to another vehicle owned by the same individual.  
License plates remain with the vehicle except for personalized and other special plates that are owned by the individual. Personalized and special plates can be



retained by an individual and transferred to another vehicle owned by the same individual.

Minnesota (MV & LE)	
New Brunswick	
North Dakota (LE)	Remains with owner.
Oklahoma	
Oregon (MV & LE)	Owner may choose to transfer the plates to another vehicle under some situations.
South Dakota	Plates remain with the vehicle; organization plates remain with the owner.
Texas	License plates remain with the vehicle except for personalized and special plates, which are owned by the individual.
Virginia (LE)	The owner retains ownership of the plate and can either transfer it to another vehicle or return it to DMV.
Washington	Except for personalized and special plates.

#### Owner

Alabama	Maryland	Ontario
Alberta	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Michigan	Prince Edward Island
British Columbia	Mississippi (LE)	Puerto Rico
Colorado (MV & LE)	Missouri (MV & LE)	Quebec
Connecticut	Montana	Rhode Island (MV & LE)
District of Columbia	Nebraska (MV & LE)	Saskatchewan
Florida	Nevada	South Carolina (MV)
Georgia	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Idaho (MV & LE)	New Jersey (MV & LE)	Utah (MV & LE)
Illinois (LE)	New Mexico	Vermont
Indiana (MV & LE)	New York (MV & LE)	Virginia (MV & LE)
Iowa	North Carolina	West Virginia
Kansas (MV & LE)	Northwest Territory	Wisconsin
Maine (MV & LE)	Nova Scotia	Wyoming
Manitoba	Ohio (MV & LE)	Yukon Territory

#### Comments

Wisconsin	Except for heavier gross weight vehicles
-----------	--

#### Other

Louisiana	Automobile plates are not transferable in a sale situation. New buyer is required to purchase new plate. Truck plates are transferable.
Mississippi	If either changes, tag is surrendered.

(MV – Motor Vehicle; LE – Law Enforcement)

### **8. How many characters are permitted on license plates?**

Alabama	7 standard; 4 to 8 distinctive and commercial
Alaska	6
Alberta	6 standard; 7 personalized
Arizona	7
Arkansas	6-7 personalized
British Columbia	6

1-20-05 HB 1256

House Bill 1256  
Submitted by  
Colonel Bryan Klipfel, Superintendent

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee

The North Dakota Highway Patrol opposes HB 1256 mandating the issuance of only one license plate in North Dakota. Having the opportunity to identify a vehicle through observation of the front license plate is extremely beneficial; let me give you some examples:

In the event of an Amber alert, having the opportunity to observe the front license plate and identify the suspects' vehicle when meeting them, versus turning around and attempting to get close enough to read the rear license plate, saves valuable time in our ability to respond to the call.

Routinely our officers are asked to do a 'welfare' check on motorists that have not arrived at a specific destination and are missing. Having the ability to patrol a four-lane highway and observe the front plate allows for easier identification of the vehicle, and while we may not be able to read the specific plate number, we typically are able to determine if it was a North Dakota plate.

We currently have 115 highway patrol cars equipped with mobile data computers (MDC's) that allow us to run license plates as vehicles are met on the roadway. This technology allows for us to check for active wants and warrants, match registration information to the vehicle observed, and identify potential suspect vehicles all by the officer having the ability to read the front license plate while meeting the vehicle on the roadway. Taking away this ability stagnates the technology available to our officers and becomes a potential safety issue if the vehicle is stopped without a license check being made.

Being able to identify a vehicle by license plate, either front or rear is critical for all law enforcement. With the potential for snow during the winter months, it is common for the rear plate to become covered by ice, mud and snow. During these times the front plate is the only means that we have available to identify the vehicle.

These are my prepared statements, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.