

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG AND MCMAKIN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECTIONS: Increase the penalties for operating a vehicle with fictitious plates and provides for specifications for temporary registration plates issued by dealers and the display of temporary registrations plates issued by dealers

## 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 47:519(A) through (H) and (K) and (L), 521 and to enact R.S.  
3 47:519(M) through (O), relative to temporary registration plates; to require license  
4 dealers submit electronic notification to the commissioner upon the issuance of a  
5 temporary registration plate; to allow the commissioner to issue a cease and desist  
6 order to a dealer if the commissioner finds that the law or the commissioner's  
7 directions are not being complied with by the dealer; to provide for the display of  
8 temporary registration license plates; to provide for an increased penalty for  
9 displaying a fictitious plate; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related  
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 47:519(A) through (H) and (K) and (L), 521 are hereby amended and  
13 reenacted and R.S. 47:519(M) through (O) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §519. Temporary registration plates issued by dealers

15 A. Issuance by commissioner to dealer. The commissioner may, subject to  
16 the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, deliver temporary registration  
17 plates ~~or markers~~ designed by the commissioner, or paper or card stock approved by  
18 the commissioner for print on demand temporary registration plates to a licensed  
19 automobile, ~~boat trailer, camper trailer,~~ truck, motorcycle, or other motor driven  
20 cycle, or motorized camper dealer who applies for same and who enclosed with such

1 application a fee of ~~four~~ twenty dollars ~~for each set~~ per plate or piece of approved  
2 paper or card stock for which application is made by a licensed dealer. Such  
3 application shall be made upon a form prescribed and furnished or on a website  
4 approved by the commissioner. Dealers subject to the limitations and conditions  
5 ~~hereinafter~~ set forth in this Section, may issue such temporary registration plates ~~or~~  
6 ~~markers~~ to owners of vehicles, except apportioned trucks, provided that such owners  
7 shall comply with the pertinent provisions of this Section.

8 B. Dealer's records. Every dealer who has made application for temporary  
9 registration plates ~~or markers~~ paper or card stock approved by the commissioner for  
10 print on demand temporary registration plates shall maintain in permanent form a  
11 record of all temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ delivered to and issued by him,  
12 and in addition thereto, shall maintain in permanent form a record of any other  
13 information pertaining to the receipt or the issuance of temporary registration plates  
14 ~~or markers~~ that the commissioner may require. Each record shall be kept for a period  
15 of at least three years from the date of entry of such record. Every dealer shall allow  
16 full and free access to such records during regular business hours, to duly authorized  
17 representatives of the commissioner and to peace officers.

18 C. Copy of application sent to commissioner. Every dealer who issues  
19 temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ print on demand temporary registration  
20 plates on paper or card stock approved by the commissioner shall, on the day that he  
21 issues such plates ~~or markers~~, send electronically to the commissioner ~~a copy of the~~  
22 ~~temporary registration plate or marker application which shall have been executed~~  
23 ~~by the person entitled to receive such plates or markers and delivered to the dealer~~  
24 ~~prior to the issuance of plates or markers to said person~~ the information including but  
25 not limited to the model, model year, make, vehicle identification number, issue date,  
26 dealer or lending institution name and address, and the city for each temporary  
27 registration plate prior to the dealer's issuing the temporary registration plate to the  
28 purchaser of the vehicle.

29 D. Permitted use. Dealers may issue temporary registration plates or print  
30 on demand temporary registration plates on paper card or card stock approved by the

1 commissioner to persons who purchase motor vehicles from dealers. All other uses  
2 of temporary registration plates are prohibited.

3 E. Information to be inserted by dealer. Every dealer who issues temporary  
4 plates ~~or markers~~ shall insert clearly and indelibly on the face of each temporary  
5 registration plate ~~or marker~~ the date of issuance and expiration, and the make and  
6 serial number of the vehicle for which issued. Every dealer who issues print on  
7 demand temporary registration plates on paper or card stock approved by the  
8 commissioner shall print on the face of each temporary registration plate the date of  
9 issuance, the date of expiration, and the make and serial number of the vehicle for  
10 which issued.

11 F. Suspension of right of dealer to issue. If the commissioner finds that the  
12 provisions of this Section or his directions are not being complied with by the dealer,  
13 he may suspend, ~~after a hearing, the right of a dealer to issue temporary registration~~  
14 ~~plates or markers~~ issue a cease and desist order to the dealer directing the dealer to  
15 stop issuing temporary registration plates and to surrender all unissued temporary  
16 registration plates remaining in the dealer's possession. Thereafter, a dealer who  
17 maintains a valid dealers license may request and the commissioner may issue a  
18 temporary registration plate on a transactional basis provided the dealer provides  
19 copies of all documents executed by the prospective purchaser of the vehicle. The  
20 cease and desist order shall remain in effect until the commissioner is satisfied that  
21 the dealer will comply with the law at the commissioner's directions, or the dealer  
22 no longer possesses a license. The commissioner shall notify the applicable  
23 licensing commission when issuing a cease and desist order as provided for in this  
24 Section.

25 G. Destruction upon receiving annual plates. Every person to whom  
26 temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ have been issued shall permanently destroy  
27 such temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ immediately upon receiving the annual  
28 registration plates; however, if the annual registration plates are not received within  
29 sixty days of the issuance of the temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ and no  
30 extension has been granted, the owner shall, notwithstanding, immediately upon the

1 expiration of such sixty-day period, permanently destroy the temporary registration  
2 plates ~~or markers~~.

3 H. Expiration of plates. Temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ shall  
4 expire and become void upon the receipt of the annual registration plates or upon the  
5 expiration of sixty days from the date of issuance, depending on whichever event  
6 shall first occur. However, if a title transfer is defective or delayed, the purchaser  
7 of a new or used motor vehicle which has been issued a temporary registration plate  
8 ~~or marker~~ may apply to the dealer for and receive one additional sixty-day extension  
9 following the expiration of the original temporary registration plate ~~or marker~~, as  
10 approved by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor  
11 vehicles. Special temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ issued under the  
12 provisions of Subsection L of this Section shall expire as provided in that Subsection.  
13 No refund or credit for fees paid by dealers to the commissioners for temporary  
14 registration plates ~~or markers~~ shall be allowed, except in the event the issuance of  
15 temporary registration plates or markers is discontinued, in which case the dealer  
16 may petition for a refund.

17 \* \* \*

18 K. Fees. The fees prescribed herein shall be retained by the commissioner  
19 to defray the cost of printing, processing, and issuing the temporary registration  
20 plates ~~or markers~~.

21 L. Special temporary plates ~~or markers~~. The commissioner shall issue  
22 special temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ to truck dealers. The special  
23 temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ shall be the same as, and shall be subject to  
24 the same requirements as, the other temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ issued  
25 under this Section, except that:

26 (1) The special temporary registration plates ~~or markers~~ shall be used only  
27 on trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand pounds or more.

28 (2) Each special temporary registration plate ~~or marker~~ shall be valid for  
29 sixty days from the date the special temporary registration plate or marker is issued.

M. The commissioner may establish rules to phase out preprinted temporary registration plates and require all persons or entities authorized to issue temporary registration plates to issue only those print on demand temporary plates on paper or card stock approved by the commissioner.

N. The commissioner shall ensure that the number printed on temporary registration license plates is the same as the number printed on the permanent plate issued by the department.

O. In lieu of issuing a temporary registration plate, the commissioner may allow a special or personalized plate to be transferred to the customer's new vehicle from the customer's old vehicle. In such event, the commissioner shall provide the manner in which the transfer is electronically reported as provided for in Subsection C of this Section.

\* \* \*

## §521. Display of temporary registration license plates

A. Each temporary registration license plate shall at all times be in a clearly visible place and position. It shall be fastened to the rear of the vehicle ~~or in the rear window of the vehicle to which it has been assigned~~ to which it has been assigned on the rear bumper of the vehicle or at a location designed for its display by the manufacturer. The temporary registration license plate shall be maintained in a condition that is clearly legible and free from foreign materials. However, the temporary registration license plate may be covered or encased in a clear transparent material but shall not obscure the temporary registration license plate and shall be readable from a distance of sixty feet.

B. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules and regulations as he deems  
necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Section.

C.(1) Any person who displays, possesses, or uses any temporary registration  
license plate, or encourages another to, facilitate, display, possess or use any  
temporary registration license plate, knowing the plate to be fictitious or to have  
been cancelled, revoked, suspended or altered shall subject themselves or the other

1 person to criminal penalties of a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more  
2 than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

3 (2) The commissioner may subject any person, public license tag agent, or  
4 auto title company to a civil penalty of not less than two hundred dollars nor more  
5 than five hundred dollars for a violation of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

6 (3) The Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission may subject any person or  
7 entity licensed as a dealer by the commission to a civil penalty of not less than two  
8 hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for a violation of Paragraph (1)  
9 of this Subsection.

10 (4) The Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle Commission may subject any person  
11 or entity it licensed as a dealer to a civil penalty of not less than two hundred dollars  
12 nor more than five hundred dollars for a violation of Paragraph (1) of this  
13 Subsection.

14 \* \* \*

15 §536. Violations of registration provisions

16 A. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, no person shall do, omit  
17 to do, permit, or cause to be done or omitted, any of the things required or prohibited  
18 by this Chapter, or to commit any of the following acts:

19 (1) To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit the operation  
20 of any motor or other vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, which is not registered or which  
21 does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon, in accordance with the  
22 provisions of R.S. 47:507, the number plates assigned to it for the current year,  
23 subject to the exemptions provided in this Chapter.

24 (2) To display or cause or permit to be displayed to sell or offer for sale or  
25 otherwise distribute or have in possession any registration certificate, or registration  
26 number plate, including any temporary registration license plate knowing the same  
27 to be fictitious or to have become cancelled, revoked, suspended or altered.

28 (3) To lend to or knowingly permit the use of by any one not entitled thereto,  
29 any registration number plate issued to the person so lending or permitting the use  
30 thereof.

1           (4) To fail or refuse to surrender to the commissioner or officers of the  
2           Division of State Police, upon demand, any registration certificate or registration  
3           number plate which has been suspended, cancelled or revoked, as provided in this  
4           Chapter.

5           (5) To use a false or fictitious name or address in any application for the  
6           registration of any vehicle or for any renewal or duplicate thereof, or to make a false  
7           statement or knowingly to conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in any  
8           such application.

9           (6) For the owner, purchaser, assignee or transferee of a vehicle formerly  
10          registered in the name of another, to neglect, fail or refuse to surrender to the  
11          commissioner or officer of the Division of State Police the registration certificate of  
12          the former owner, or to fail or refuse to furnish the commissioner with satisfactory  
13          proof as to the transfer thereof and his ownership of the vehicle.

14          (7) To use or operate, or permit to be used or operated, any vehicle on the  
15          highways of the state carrying a net load in excess of that for which it is registered  
16          and the tax thereon paid. Each use of said vehicle shall constitute a separate offense.

17          (8) To obtain or use an improper registration certificate, license or license  
18          plates, or to make improper use of a properly obtained registration license or license  
19          plate, or to use upon one vehicle the license plates issued for another vehicle, or to  
20          register and attach license plates to and use on the highways of this State a vehicle  
21          unsafe or unfit to be operated, or one that is not equipped as required by law, or for  
22          a manufacturer or dealer to make or permit to be made any unlawful use of the same  
23          or permit the use thereof by a person not entitled thereto.

24          B. Whoever violates the provisions of this paragraph Subsection A of this  
25          Section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more  
26          than thirty days, or both; , except a fine for violating Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section  
27          which shall be two hundred and fifty dollars.

28          ~~For the purposes of paragraph (7) of this Section and of R.S. 47:516, where~~  
29          ~~the weight of a vehicle does not exceed by ten per centum the weight for which it is~~  
30          ~~licensed or registered, and where such overloading is bona fide, such overloading~~

1        ~~shall not constitute a violation and shall not subject the owner or operator of the~~  
2        ~~vehicle to the penalties and requirements therein provided.~~

3                ~~(8) To obtain or use an improper registration certificate, license or license~~  
4        ~~plates, or to make improper use of a properly obtained registration license or license~~  
5        ~~plate, or to use upon one vehicle the license plates issued for another vehicle, or to~~  
6        ~~register and attach license plates to and use on the highways of this State a vehicle~~  
7        ~~unsafe or unfit to be operated, or one that is not equipped as required by law, or for~~  
8        ~~a manufacturer or dealer to make or permit to be made any unlawful use of the same~~  
9        ~~or permit the use thereof by a person not entitled thereto.~~

10        Section 2. Pursuant to R.S. 49:962(A)(2), the commissioner of the office of motor  
11        vehicles is specifically directed to proceed with emergency rule making to implement the  
12        provisions of this Act.

13        Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
14        signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
15        by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
16        vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
17        effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 580 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Illg

**Abstract:** Provides for specifications for temporary registration plates issued by dealers and the display of temporary registration plates issued by dealers. Increases the penalties for operating a vehicle with fictitious plates.

Present law specifies that the commissioner may, subject to limitations and conditions in present law, deliver temporary plates or markers designed by the commissioner to a licensed automobile, boat, trailer, camp trailer, truck, motorcycle, or other motor driven cycle, or motorized camper dealer who applies and pays an application fee of four dollars for each set the application is made. Further, specifies that the application must be made upon a form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner. Additionally, specifies that dealers subject to limitations and conditions, may issue temporary registration plates or makers to owners of vehicles, excluding apportioned trucks, provided that owners comply with present law.

Proposed law provides for paper or card stock approved by the commissioner for print on demand plates to a licensed automobile, trailer, truck, motorcycle, or other motorized



camper dealer who applies for a license enclosed with an application fee of \$20 per plate or piece of approved paper or card stock for which the application is made by a licensed dealer. Specifies that the application must be made upon a website approved by the commissioner.

Present law requires that every dealer who has made application for temporary plates or markers must maintain in permanent form a record of all temporary registration plates or markers delivered to and issued by him, and maintain in permanent form a record of any other information pertaining to the receipt or issuance of temporary license plates or markers required by the commissioner. Further, requires each record be kept for at least three years from the date of entry of such record. Additionally, requires every dealer to allow full and free access to the records during regular business hours, to duly authorized representatives of the commissioner and to peace officers.

Proposed law modifies present law by replacing markers with temporary plates or paper or cardstock approved by the commissioner for print-on-demand temporary registration plates.

Present law requires dealers who issue temporary registration plates or markers to, on the day of issuance, send to the commissioner a copy of the temporary registration plate or marker application executed by the person entitled to receive such plates or markers and delivered to the dealer prior to the issuance of plates or markers.

Proposed law authorizes dealers who issue temporary plates or print on demand temporary registration plates on paper or card stock to, on the day of issuance of the plates, send electronically to the commissioner the model, model year, make, vehicle identification number, issue date, dealer or lending institution name and address, and the city for each temporary registration plate to the purchasers of the vehicle.

Present law authorizes dealers to issue temporary registration plates to persons who purchase motor vehicles from dealers. Additionally, specifies that all other uses of temporary registration plates are prohibited.

Proposed law authorizes dealers to issue print on demand temporary plates on paper or card stock approved by the commissioner.

Present law requires dealers who issue temporary plates or markers to insert clearly and indelibly on the face of each temporary registration plate or marker the date of issuance and expiration, and the make and serial number of the vehicle for which issued.

Proposed law requires dealers who issue print on demand temporary registration plates on paper or card stock approved by the commissioner to print on the face of each temporary registration plate the date of issuance, the date of expiration, and the serial number of the vehicle for which issued.

Present law authorizes the commissioner to suspend, after a hearing, the right of a dealer to issue temporary registration plates or markers, if the commissioner finds that present law or his directions are not being complied with by the dealer.

Proposed law modifies present law by authorizing the commissioner to issue a cease and desist order to the dealer directing the dealer to stop issuing plates and surrender all unissued temporary registration plates remaining in the dealer's possession if the commissioner finds his directions are not being complied with by the dealer. Additionally, authorizes dealers that maintain a valid dealers license to request and the commissioner to issue a temporary registration plate on a transactional basis provided the dealer provides copies of all document executed by the prospective purchaser of the vehicle and cease and desist order must remain in effect until the commissioner is satisfied that the dealer will comply with the law at the commissioner's directions, or the dealer no longer possesses a license. Requires the commissioner notify the applicable licensing commission when issuing a cease and desist order.

Present law requires persons issued temporary registration plates or markers to permanently destroy the temporary registration plates or markers immediately upon receiving the annual registration plates; however, if the annual registration plate is not received within 60 days of the issuance of the temporary registration plate or marker and no extension has been granted, the owner is required to immediately upon the expiration of the 60 day period, permanently destroy the temporary registration plates or markers.

Proposed law removes "markers" from present law.

Present law requires temporary registration plates or markers to expire and become void upon the receipt of the annual registration plates or upon the expiration of 60 days from the date of issuance, depending on whichever event occurs first. Further, specifies that if a title transfer is defective or delayed, the purchaser of a new or used motor vehicle which has been issued a temporary registration plate or marker may apply to the dealer for and receive one additional 60 day extension following the expiration of the original temporary registration plate or marker, as approved by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles. Additionally, requires the special temporary registration plates or markers issued under present law to expire and no refund or credit for fees paid by dealers to the commissioners for temporary registration plates or markers is be allowed, except in the event the issuance of temporary registration plates or markers is discontinued, in which case the dealer may petition for a refund.

Present law requires fees prescribed be retained by the commissioner to defray the cost of printing, processing and issuing the temporary registration plates or markers.

Proposed law removes "markers" from present law.

Present law specifies that the commissioner must issue special temporary registration plates or markers to truck dealers. Additionally, specifies that the special temporary registration plates or markers must be the same as, and shall be subject to the same requirements as, the other temporary registration plates or markers issued under present law except that:

- (1) The special temporary registration plates or markers must be used only on trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more.
- (2) Each special temporary registration plate or marker must be valid for 60 days from the date the special temporary registration plate or marker is issued.

Proposed law removes "markers" from present law. Requires the special temporary plates be used only on trucks with a gross vehicle rating of 10,000 pounds or more.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to establish rules to phase out preprinted temporary license plates and require all persons or entities authorized to issue temporary registration plates to only issue print on demand temporary plates on paper or card stock approved by the commissioner.

Proposed law requires the commissioner to ensure that the number printed on temporary license plates is the same as the number printed on the permanent plate issued by the dept.

Proposed law specifies that instead of issuing a temporary registration plate, the commissioner may allow a special or personalized plate to be transferred to the customer's new vehicle from the old vehicle. Further, specifies that in such event, the commissioner must provide the manner in which the transfer is electronically reported as provided for in proposed law.

Present law requires temporary registration license plates be at all times be in a clearly visible place and position. Additionally, requires it to be fastened to the rear of the vehicle or in the rear window of the vehicle to which it has been assigned and maintained in a condition that is clearly legible and free from foreign materials.

Proposed law requires temporary plates be fastened to the rear of the vehicle to which it has been assigned on the bumper on the rear of the vehicle or at the location designed for its display by the manufacturer. Additionally, specifies that the temporary registration plate may be covered or encased in a clear transparent material but must not obscure the plate and must be readable from a distance of 60 ft.

Proposed law requires that commissioner promulgate any rules and regulations as he deems necessary for the purposed of carrying out proposed law.

Proposed law requires any person who displays, possesses, or uses any temporary registration license plate, or encourages another to, facilitate, display, possess or use any temporary registration license plate, knowing the plate to be fictitious or to have been cancelled, revoked, suspended or altered subjects themselves or the other person to criminal penalties of a fine of not less \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to subject any person, public license tag agent, or auto title company to a civil penalty of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500 for a violation of proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Motor Vehicle Commission to subject any person or entity licensed as a dealer by the commission to a civil penalty of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500 for a violation of proposed law.

Present law specifies that no person can do, omit to do, permit, or cause to be done or omitted, any of the things required or prohibited by present law, or to commit any of the list or specific acts, including displaying or causing or permitting to be displayed or having in his possession any registration certificate, or registration number plate, knowing the same to be fictitious or to have become cancelled, revoked, suspended or altered.

Proposed law modifies present law by specifying that selling or offering for sale or otherwise distributing or having in his possession any registration certificate, or registration number plate, including a temporary registration licence plate, knowing the same to be fictitious or to have become canceled revoked, suspended or altered.

Proposed law specifies that whoever violates the provisions of proposed law will be fined not more than \$100, or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both except a fine of violating proposed law which must be \$250.

Present law specifies that for the purposes of present law, where the weight of a vehicle does not exceed by ten per centum the weight for which it is licensed or registered, and where such overloading is bona fide, such overloading must not constitute a violation and does not subject the owner or operator of the vehicle to the penalties and requirements.

Proposed law removes present law.

Directs the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles to proceed with emergency rule making to implement the provisions of this Act.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 47:519(A) through (H) and (K) and (L), 521, and 536; Adds R.S. 47:519(M) through (O))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.