

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG AND MCMAKIN

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 47:519(A) through (H) and (K) and (L), 521, and 536 and to
3 enact R.S. 47:519(M) through (O), relative to temporary registration plates; to
4 require license dealers submit electronic notification to the commissioner upon the
5 issuance of a temporary registration plate; to allow the commissioner to issue a cease
6 and desist order to a dealer if the commissioner finds that the law or the
7 commissioner's directions are not being complied with by the dealer; to provide for
8 the display of temporary registration license plates; to provide for an increased
9 penalty for displaying a fictitious plate; to provide an effective date; and to provide
10 for related 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, and 536 are hereby
13 amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:519(M) through (O) are hereby enacted to read as
14 follows:

15 §519. Temporary registration plates issued by dealers

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

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

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

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

28 D. Permitted use. Dealers may issue temporary registration plates or print
29 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 * * *

7 §536. Violations of registration provisions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 ~~For the purposes of paragraph (7) of this Section and of R.S. 47:516, where~~
21 ~~the weight of a vehicle does not exceed by ten per centum the weight for which it is~~
22 ~~licensed or registered, and where such overloading is bona fide, such overloading~~
23 ~~shall not constitute a violation and shall not subject the owner or operator of the~~
24 ~~vehicle to the penalties and requirements therein provided.~~

25 ~~(8) To obtain or use an improper registration certificate, license or license~~
26 ~~plates, or to make improper use of a properly obtained registration license or license~~
27 ~~plate, or to use upon one vehicle the license plates issued for another vehicle, or to~~
28 ~~register and attach license plates to and use on the highways of this State a vehicle~~
29 ~~unsafe or unfit to be operated, or one that is not equipped as required by law, or for~~

1 ~~a manufacturer or dealer to make or permit to be made any unlawful use of the same~~
2 ~~or permit the use thereof by a person not entitled thereto.~~

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____