
DIGEST

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HB 888 Original

2026 Regular Session

Melerine

Abstract: Provides for certain requirements for the design, authentication, and regulation of temporary registration plates and dealer identification plates.

Present law (R.S. 47:473(H)) permits dealers to allow authorized employees of educational institutions or licensed sales representatives of the dealer to use a vehicle with an attached dealer inventory plate, provided the arrangement does not constitute renting or leasing the vehicle to the employee or sales representative. Specifies that renting or leasing does not include those transactions where a dealer-provided automobile is treated as a taxable fringe benefit to the licensed sales representative of the dealer under the provisions of federal law and regulations.

Proposed law redesignates present law and authorizes a licensed motor vehicle dealer to permit a customer to operate a vehicle that the dealer has attached a dealer inventory plate as a temporary courtesy loaner vehicle when the customer's motor vehicle is undergoing repair or warranty service by the dealer. Specifies that the use of a motor vehicle pursuant proposed law requires:

- (1) Limited to personal and noncommercial use.
- (2) Not exceed 30 days, unless extended for good cause directly related to the completion of the repair or service.
- (3) Not constitute the renting or leasing of a motor vehicle for purposes of state law.

Proposed law requires the dealer complete and place in the vehicle a document containing the following:

- (1) The name and address of the dealer.
- (2) The name and address of the customer.
- (3) The identification of the customer's motor vehicle undergoing repair or service.
- (4) The dates the customer is authorized to operate the courtesy loaner vehicle.

Proposed law specifies that the operation of a motor vehicle in compliance with proposed law constitute a lawful use of a dealer's plate for the purposes of present law.

Present law (R.S. 47:519) authorizes the commissioner of OMV to issue temporary registration plates to motor vehicle dealers. The commission is authorized to design the plates.

Proposed law adds a requirement that the commissioner to the following to prevent counterfeiting of temporary registration plates:

- (1) Approve all paper or card stock for use in print-on-demand temporary registration plates to incorporate security features designed to prevent counterfeiting, forgery, alteration, or duplication, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Serialized identifiers.
 - (b) Embedded security markings.
 - (c) Tamper-resistant or tamper-evident features.
 - (d) Machine-readable elements.
- (2) Ensure temporary registration plates shall be generated only through the electronic issuance system and no temporary registration plate number, image, or format may be reproduced, duplicated, altered, or generated outside such system.
- (3) Ensure paper or card stock used for temporary registration plates shall be sufficiently durable to withstand exposure to ordinary weather conditions for the full period of authorized temporary registration, including rain, sunlight, heat, humidity, wind, and normal vehicle operation. Ordinary weather conditions must be presumed to include outdoor exposure for a minimum of 60 days.
- (4) Mandate that temporary registration plates remain legible and clearly readable throughout the authorized registration period. Fading, discoloration, bleeding of ink, warping, delamination, or loss of contrast that materially impairs the legibility during the authorized registration period will constitute noncompliance with proposed law.
- (5) Use printing methods, inks and materials that are of sufficient quality to ensure that required information, including the registration number, expiration date, and any machine-readable elements, does not fade or become illegible due to ordinary weather exposure.
- (6) Promulgate rules establishing minimum security, material, durability, and legibility standards for approved paper or card stock and may suspend or revoke approval of any paper or card stock that fails to meet such standards.

Present law (R.S. 47:520(B)) authorizes dealerships to print and utilize temporary demonstration and transportation identification plates and requires the plates have certain information identified.

Proposed law requires the form of the temporary identification plates be consistent with the size, design, and other characteristics established by the DPS&C, OMV.

Present law (R.S. 47:520(E)) specifies that each identification plate is valid for five days from the date the identification plate was placed in service.

Proposed law changes the validity date from five days to 10 consecutive calendar days, including the date the identification plate was placed in service, and will expire at 11:59 p.m. on the 10th day.

Present law (R.S. 47:520(F)) authorizes dealerships that place an identification plate in service on a motor vehicle to use that vehicle for any business purpose of the dealership, including but not limited to the demonstration or transportation of that vehicle.

Proposed law adds that temporary customer loaner may use the vehicle while the customer's vehicle is undergoing service or repair.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(G)) allows the identification plate to be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle to which the plate has been assigned or displayed at another clearly visible location on the rear window of the vehicle, including a location designed for license plate display by the manufacturer.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(H)) defines "placed in service" as the first date on which the identification plate is displayed on a motor vehicle for use pursuant proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(I)) specifies that proposed law governs identification plates, unless contrary to other present law.

Present law (R.S. 47:521) requires temporary registration license plates be clearly visible and fastened to the rear of the vehicle which has been assigned on the rear bumper of the vehicle or a location designed by the manufacturer.

Proposed law includes that temporary registration license plate do not have to be fastened to the rear bumper of the motor vehicle if it is a dealers temporary demonstration and transportation vehicle. Further specifies that the identification plate may be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle to which the plates has been assigned or displayed at another clearly visible location on the rear window of the vehicle, including a location designed for license plate display by the manufacturer.

Proposed law requires that the temporary registration license plate or identification plate be maintained in a condition that is clearly legible and free from foreign materials. The plate may be covered or encased in a clear, transparent material, provided that the covering does not obscure any information on the plate and the plate remains readable from a distance of 60 ft.

(Amends R.S. 47:473(H) and 520(B), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 47:519(P), 520(G)-(I), and 521(D))