

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 489

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

MOTOR VEHICLES. To authorize third party vendors to conduct a license plate inquiry on motor vehicles to verify insurance liability coverage. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:863.2(A)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), (B), (C), (E)(1) and (2),
3 (F)(1), (2), (4), (5), and (6), to enact R.S. 32:863.2(F)(7), relative to third party
4 inquiries on motor vehicle license plates; to authorize third parties to conduct
5 inquiries on motor vehicle license plates; to make technical changes; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 32:863.2(A)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), (B), (C), (E)(1) and (2), (F)(1),
9 (2), (4), (5), and (6) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 32:863.2(F)(7) is hereby
10 enacted to read as follows:

11 §863.2. Notification of the cancellation or issuance of security; penalties; database
12 development

13 A.(1) All entities providing security in compliance with R.S. 32:861 et seq.,
14 hereinafter referred to as "security providers", whether admitted or nonadmitted
15 (surplus line underwriter) insurance companies providing automobile liability
16 policies, or sales representatives or agents of surety companies issuing motor vehicle
17 liability bonds, or the state treasurer holding deposits, shall notify the ~~secretary~~

1 the insurance company, sales representative or agent, state treasurer, or other
2 provider shall pay a late fee of not more than fifty dollars per policy, bond, or
3 deposit, or other security item concerning which information is not supplied. If the
4 security provider has reported this information for a policy, bond, deposit, or other
5 security item for a commercial motor vehicle in an untimely manner, the deputy
6 ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall impose the late fee unless the deputy secretary
7 determines that the security provider made a good faith effort to comply with these
8 requirements but the delay was caused by circumstances outside the security
9 provider's control. All fees collected under this Subsection shall be deposited in the
10 Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in R.S. 32:853(B)(2).

11 C. The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall keep a record of the information
12 received from security providers concerning coverage of vehicles and persons by
13 security required by R.S. 32:861, which information may be stored through
14 automated electronic data processing means. After the department has complete
15 vehicle liability security records, upon written request including the driver's license
16 number for each person, the vehicle identification number for each vehicle, and the
17 payment of a fee of fifteen dollars for each vehicle owned by a person about which
18 inquiry is made, the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall forward to the inquiring party
19 such vehicle and driver liability security information as is contained in the records
20 of the department. If the department's search of its records fails to show the existence
21 of any liability insurance or other security as of the date about which inquiry is made,
22 an official of the department will issue a sworn, notarized affidavit to that effect.
23 Such an affidavit shall be prima facie evidence that on the date in question, the
24 person or vehicle about which inquiry was made did not have in effect a policy of
25 liability insurance or other security as required by law. The fee collected pursuant
26 to this Section shall be remitted by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** to the state treasurer
27 to be credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in R.S.
28 32:853(B)(2).

29 * * *

1 E.(1) Prior to taking any administrative action based on the receipt of a notice
2 of cancellation of insurance or other security, the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall
3 notify the person who is the subject of the notice at his last known driver's license
4 address, of cancellation of the receipt of that notice. The notice of receipt of a notice
5 of cancellation shall be in writing. The notice shall inform the subject that he has ten
6 calendar days from the date of the notice in which he may surrender the license
7 plates of the vehicle in order to avoid the fees prescribed by R.S. 32:863(A)(3)(a).
8 The person to whom the notice is addressed shall have thirty days to respond to the
9 notice. The response may be made by mail.

10 (2) If the person to whom the notice is addressed is able to show that the
11 insurance or other security was canceled for a legitimate reason, the ~~secretary~~
12 **commissioner** shall take no administrative action against that person. Legitimate
13 reasons for cancellation of insurance or other security shall include but shall not be
14 limited to the transfer of ownership of the vehicle or the surrender of the license plate
15 of the formerly insured vehicle. If the vehicle is sold within ten calendar days after
16 the date liability security on the vehicle was cancelled or its license plate is
17 surrendered within ten calendar days of the date of notice sent pursuant to Paragraph
18 (1) of this Subsection, no administrative action shall be taken. The transfer of
19 ownership of the vehicle may be established by presenting to the ~~secretary~~
20 **commissioner** a copy of the title transfer or a copy of the act of sale, donation,
21 exchange, surrender to a salvage yard, or other transaction.

22 * * *

23 F.(1) The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall formulate criteria to develop and
24 initiate a request for proposals to procure and implement a real-time system to
25 quickly and accurately identify and verify the existence of motor vehicle insurance
26 or other security required in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Safety
27 Responsibility Law using advanced telecommunications and computer technology.

28 (2) The criteria established by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall be developed
29 only after consulting with an advisory group consisting of the commissioner of

1 insurance or his designee, the superintendent of state police or his designee, the
2 executive director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission or his designee, and
3 five additional members, one representing the American Insurance Association, one
4 representing the Property Casualty Insurance Association of America, one selected
5 from a list of names submitted by the three insurers with the largest market share of
6 automobile insurance in Louisiana, one from the Louisiana Association of Fire and
7 Casualty Companies, and one from the Louisiana Independent Agents Association.

8 * * *

9 (4) The system developed pursuant to this Subsection may initially be
10 implemented by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** as a six-month pilot program to be
11 developed and implemented statewide upon expiration of the six-month period.

12 **(5)(a) The commissioner may authorize a third party vendor or**
13 **designated agent to conduct a motor vehicle registration plate inquiry at the**
14 **request of law enforcement through the state insurance verification system**
15 **solely for the purpose of verifying compliance with motor vehicle liability**
16 **insurance requirements as needed by law enforcement agencies.**

17 **(b) Any violation of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph may constitute**
18 **malfeasance in office as provided in R.S. 14:134, and civil claims may arise**
19 **pursuant to the Louisiana Governmental Claims Act, R.S. 13:5101, et seq.**

20 **(6)** The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall require such information as may be
21 necessary from automobile insurers or their representatives and the state treasurer as
22 is needed to assist the contractor in developing the system as such relates to the
23 cancellation or issuance of motor vehicle liability security or deposit of sufficient
24 security with the state treasurer in order to operate a motor vehicle in this state.

25 ~~(6)~~ **(7)** The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall promulgate rules and regulations
26 **in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act** to implement the provisions
27 of this Subsection.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 489 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Present law provides the "commissioner" means the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and "secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his delegated or authorized representative. Proposed law makes technical corrections.

Present law provides the secretary formulate criteria, develop and initiate proposals to procure and implement a real-time system to quickly and accurately identify and verify the existence of motor vehicle insurance or other security required in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law using advanced telecommunications and computer technology. Proposed law makes technical corrections.

Proposed law provides the commissioner may authorize a third party vendor or designated agent to conduct a motor vehicle registration plate inquiry at the request of law enforcement for the purpose of verifying compliance with motor vehicle liability insurance requirements as needed by law enforcement agencies. Proposed law adds penalty of malfeasance in office and a civil right of action for violation of proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 32:863.2(A)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), (B), (C), (E)(1) and (2), (F)(1), (2), (4), (5), and (6); adds R.S. 32:863.2(F)(7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by SenateSenate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds penalty and right of action for violation.