

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 888

2026 Regular Session

Melerine

MTR VEHICLE/LICEN PLATES: Provides for the regulations of temporary dealers plates.

DIGEST

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 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(A)) authorizes the commissioner of OMV to issue temporary registration plates to motor vehicle dealers and charge a \$20 application fee per plate. The commission is authorized to design the plates.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the requirement that the application fee not be charged until the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

Proposed law adds a requirement that the commissioner do 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) A machine readable, serialized identifier.
 - (b) At least one anti-counterfeiting visual security feature, which may include embedded security markings such as latent images or void pantograph technologies, holographic or tamper-evident elements, or official state-approved insignias or seals.
 - (c) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, for print permanence and weather resistance.
- (2) Ensure temporary registration plates shall be generated only through the electronic issuance system approved by the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles, and

no temporary registration plate number, image, or format may be reproduced, duplicated, altered, or generated outside of this system.

- (3) Ensure that temporary registration plates, including substrate, printing methods, inks, and materials, remain fully legible and structurally intact for the full period of the authorized temporary registration. For purposes of this Subsection, ordinary weather conditions shall be presumed to include outdoor exposure for a minimum of sixty days, including exposure to rain, sunlight, heat, humidity, wind, and normal vehicle operation. Fading, discoloration, bleeding of ink, warping, delamination, or loss of contrast that materially impairs legibility during the authorized registration period shall constitute noncompliance with this Section.
- (4) The commissioner shall promulgate rules establishing minimum security, material, durability, and legibility standards for the approved paper or card stock and may replace or redesignate the approved paper or card stock if it fails to meet such standards."
- (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(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 a 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.

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.

Proposed law requires the commissioner to consult with representatives of licensed motor vehicle dealers prior to implementing the print-on-demand system and prior to making any material change to the system, including changes to approved paper or card stock, equipment requirements, or issuance procedures.

Requires the provisions of proposed law (R.S. 47:519(P)) become effective when the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

Proposed law becomes effective upon signature of the governor.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required motor vehicle dealers complete and place in the vehicle a document that includes certain information about the dealer, customer, and vehicle.
3. Add a provision that prevents the application fee from being charged until the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.
4. Add that embedded security markings include latent images or void pantograph technologies.
5. Add that tamper-resistant or tamper-evident features include destructible holographic elements or similar authentication devices.
6. Add the following security features for temporary registration plates:
 - (a) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, for print permanence and weather resistance.
 - (b) Official state-approved insignias or seals as an authentication feature to ensure the security and durability of temporary registration plates.
7. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required the form of the temporary identification plates be consistent with the size, design, and other characteristics established by the office of motor vehicles.
8. Clarify proposed law by removing a provision that provided that the identification plate affixed to the rear window of the vehicle assigned or displayed at another clearly visible location on the rear window of the vehicle, include a location designed for license plate display by the manufacturer that would have applied to dealership identification plates and the display of temporary license plates.
9. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required the temporary registration license plate or identification plate be maintained in a condition that is clearly legible and free from foreign materials. Also remove that 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 sixty feet.
10. Add a requirement that proposed law (R.S. 47:519(P)) become effective when the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the engrossed bill

1. Changes requirements that the commissioner do to prevent counterfeiting of temporary registration plates.
2. Adds provisions for the commissioner to consult with licensed motor vehicle dealers.
3. Makes technical changes.
4. Adds effective date.