
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:
3 "**§249-7 Number plates.** (a) Upon receipt of the tax, the
4 director of finance shall number and register the vehicle in the
5 owner's name in a permanent record or book to be kept by the
6 director for this purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof
7 with a receipt showing upon its face the license number issued
8 for the vehicle and the fact that the license tax has been paid
9 thereon for the whole or the remainder of the current year in
10 which the receipt is issued. The director of finance shall also
11 furnish the owner, upon the original registration of the
12 vehicle, two number plates for the vehicle or one plate in the
13 case of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles, or upon approval
14 of a request of the owner of a vehicle pursuant to subsection
15 (f), with the registration number marked thereon. Upon the
16 payment of the tax for each year, a tag or emblem bearing a
17 serial number and the month and year of expiration shall be



1 provided to the owner. Transfer of current number plates, tag,
2 or emblem, except as authorized by this chapter or by chapter
3 286, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each
4 offense.

5 (b) Upon an original registration the director of finance
6 shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the
7 cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the
8 administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem
9 and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new
10 series of number plates as determined by the directors of
11 finance of each county through majority consent, the director of
12 finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the
13 number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the
14 plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of finance
15 shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner shall
16 securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on the
17 front and the other on the rear, at a location provided by the
18 manufacturer or in the absence of such a location upon the
19 bumpers of the vehicle and in conformance with section 291-31,
20 in such a manner as to prevent the plates from swinging[-];
21 provided that if the owner of any vehicle has received one



1 number plate upon original registration of the vehicle or
2 returns one number plate to the director of finance pursuant to
3 subsection (f), the owner shall not be required to fasten a
4 number plate to the front of the vehicle. Number plates shall
5 at all times be displayed entirely unobscured and be kept
6 reasonably clean. In the case of trailers, semitrailers, or
7 motorcycles, one plate shall be used and it shall be fastened to
8 the rear thereof at a location provided by the manufacturer or
9 in the absence of such a location at the rear thereof, and in
10 the case of motorcycles in conformance with section 291-31.

11 (c) Upon the issuance of the tag or emblem the owner shall
12 affix the tag or emblem to the top right portion of the rear
13 number plate, except that all vehicles owned by the State, any
14 county government, any board of water supply, and official
15 representatives of any foreign governments shall be issued
16 registrations which need be renewed only in the new plate issue
17 year.

18 (d) After the initial payment of the tax and the original
19 registration of a vehicle as herein specified, a motor vehicle
20 shall not be required to be reweighed in any succeeding year
21 unless it has been so altered or changed as to increase or



1 diminish its weight. No new number plates shall, however, be
2 issued to a new owner except as provided in sections 249-7.5 and
3 249-8.

4 (e) If an owner of a vehicle registered in any county,
5 upon the disposition of the vehicle, requests that the license
6 plates furnished to the owner with respect to the registration
7 of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle subsequently
8 acquired by the owner, the assignment may be made by the
9 director of finance at the director's discretion. To defray
10 additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to those
11 requests, the director of finance shall charge a fee of \$5 for
12 each reassignment of license plates, in addition to the fee for
13 registration. The procedure for registering the vehicles shall
14 otherwise be identical with that provided by this section.

15 (f) The director of finance shall allow the owner of any
16 vehicle containing safety equipment originally installed by the
17 vehicle manufacturer that would be or is impaired by a front
18 number plate to:

19 (1) Request one number plate upon original registration of
20 the vehicle; or



1 (2) Remove and return the front number plate of a vehicle
2 that has been registered.

3 The director of finance shall adopt rules pursuant to
4 chapter 91 specifying the vehicles with safety equipment
5 originally installed by the vehicle manufacturer that are
6 impaired by a front number plate."

7 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 1737

Report Title:

Motor Vehicles; License Plates; Number Plates

Description:

Allows a motor vehicle owner to be exempt from being required to fasten a front license plate to the motor vehicle if the vehicle's safety equipment originally installed by the vehicle manufacturer is impaired by a front number plate.

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