

House File 2148 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2148
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 540)
(SUCCESSOR TO HF 111)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the issuance and display of one registration
2 plate on motor vehicles.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.18, subsection 7, Code 2016, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 7. Any school bus in this state used exclusively for
4 the transportation of pupils to and from school or a school
5 function or for the purposes provided in section 285.1,
6 subsection 1, and [section 285.10, subsection 9](#), or used
7 exclusively for the transportation of children enrolled in a
8 federal head start program. Upon application the department
9 shall, without charge, issue a registration certificate and a
10 registration ~~plates~~ plate. The ~~plates~~ plate shall be attached
11 to the ~~front and~~ rear of each bus exempt from registration
12 under [this subsection](#).

13 Sec. 2. Section 321.22, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 1. An urban transit company or system having a franchise
16 to operate in any city and any regional transit system may
17 make application to the department, upon forms furnished by
18 the department, for a certificate containing a distinguishing
19 number and for one or more ~~pairs of~~ registration plates to be
20 attached to the ~~front and~~ rear of buses owned or operated by
21 the transit company or system.

22 Sec. 3. Section 321.26, subsection 2, Code 2016, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 2. The county treasurer may adjust the renewal or expiration
25 date of vehicles when deemed necessary to equalize the number
26 of vehicles registered in each twelve-month period or for the
27 administrative efficiency of the county treasurer's office.
28 The adjustment shall be accomplished by delivery of a written
29 notice to the vehicle owner of the adjustment and allowance of
30 a credit for the remaining months of the unused portion of the
31 annual registration fee, rounded to the nearest whole dollar,
32 which amount shall be deducted from the annual registration
33 fee due at the time of registration. Upon receipt of the
34 notification the owner shall, within thirty days, surrender the
35 registration card and registration ~~plates~~ plate to the county

1 treasurer of the county where the vehicle is registered, except
2 that the registration ~~plates~~ plate shall not be surrendered
3 if a validation ~~stickers~~ sticker or other ~~emblems~~ emblem
4 is used to designate the month and year of expiration of
5 registration. Upon payment of the annual registration fee,
6 less the credit allowed for the remaining months of the
7 unused portion of the annual registration fee, the county
8 treasurer shall issue a new registration card and registration
9 ~~plates~~ plate, validation ~~stickers~~ sticker, or ~~emblems~~ emblem
10 which ~~indicate~~ indicates the month and year of expiration of
11 registration.

12 Sec. 4. Section 321.34, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2016, are
13 amended to read as follows:

14 1. ~~Plates~~ Plate *issued.* The county treasurer upon receiving
15 application, accompanied by proper fee, for registration of a
16 vehicle shall issue to the owner one registration plate ~~for~~
17 ~~a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, truck tractor, trailer, or~~
18 ~~semitrailer and two registration plates for every other motor~~
19 ~~vehicle.~~ The registration ~~plates~~ plate, including any special
20 registration ~~plates~~ plate, shall be assigned to the owner of a
21 vehicle. When the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or
22 assigns ownership of the vehicle to another person, the owner
23 shall remove the registration ~~plates~~ plate from the vehicle.
24 The owner shall forward the ~~plates~~ plate to the county
25 treasurer where the vehicle is registered or the owner may have
26 the ~~plates~~ plate assigned to another vehicle within thirty days
27 after transfer, upon payment of the fees required by law. The
28 owner shall immediately affix the registration ~~plates~~ plate
29 retained by the owner to another vehicle owned or acquired by
30 the owner, providing the owner complies with [section 321.46](#).
31 The department shall adopt rules providing for the assignment
32 of a registration ~~plates~~ plate to the transferee of a vehicle
33 for which a credit is allowed under section 321.46, subsection
34 6.

35 2. *Validation stickers.*

1 a. In lieu of issuing ~~a new registration plates~~ plate
2 each registration year for a vehicle renewing registration,
3 the department may reassign the registration ~~plates~~ plate
4 previously issued to the vehicle and may adopt and prescribe
5 an annual validation sticker indicating payment of annual
6 registration fees. The department shall issue one validation
7 sticker for each ~~set of registration plates~~ plate. The
8 sticker shall specify the month and year of expiration of the
9 registration ~~plates~~ plate. ~~The sticker shall be displayed~~
10 ~~only on the rear registration plate, except that the sticker~~
11 ~~shall be displayed on the front registration plate of a truck~~
12 ~~tractor.~~

13 b. The state department of transportation shall adopt rules
14 to provide for the placement of the motor vehicle registration
15 validation sticker.

16 Sec. 5. Section 321.37, Code 2016, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **321.37 Display of ~~plates~~ plate.**

19 1. ~~Registration plates~~ The registration plate issued for
20 a motor vehicle other than a ~~motorcycle, motorized bicycle or~~
21 a truck tractor shall be attached to the rear of the motor
22 vehicle, ~~one in the front and the other in the rear. The~~
23 ~~registration plate issued for a motorcycle or other vehicle~~
24 ~~required to be registered hereunder shall be attached to the~~
25 ~~rear of the vehicle.~~ The registration plate issued for a truck
26 tractor shall be attached to the front of the truck tractor.
27 The special plate issued to a dealer shall be attached on the
28 rear of the vehicle when operated on the highways of this
29 state.

30 2. ~~Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle which~~
31 ~~is model year 1948 or older, and reconstructed or specially~~
32 ~~constructed vehicles built to resemble a model year 1948~~
33 ~~vehicle or older, other than a truck registered for more than~~
34 ~~five tons, motorcycle, or truck tractor, may display one~~
35 ~~registration plate on the rear of the vehicle if the other~~

1 ~~registration plate issued to the vehicle is carried in the~~
2 ~~vehicle at all times when the vehicle is operated on a public~~
3 ~~highway.~~

4 ~~3.~~ 2. It is unlawful for the owner of a vehicle to place
5 any frame around or over the registration plate which does not
6 permit full view of all numerals and letters printed on the
7 registration plate.

8 Sec. 6. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor may make any
9 change the Code editor deems necessary to any Code section that
10 refers, in any context, to a set of, a pair of, or two motor
11 vehicle registration plates rather than one registration plate,
12 when there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
13 making the correction.

14 Sec. 7. TRANSITION PROVISIONS. The transition from the
15 use of motor vehicle registration plates on both the front
16 and rear of certain vehicles to the use of such plates on
17 only the rear of certain vehicles, as directed by this Act,
18 shall be accomplished in stages. A person applying for a new
19 or replacement registration plate on or after July 1, 2016,
20 shall receive only one registration plate. Otherwise, the
21 transition shall not be accomplished until a new series of
22 registration plates is issued to replace a current series. The
23 department of transportation shall adopt rules to implement the
24 transition.

25

EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 Under current law, two registration plates are issued for a
29 motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or
30 truck tractor, and are required to be attached to the front and
31 rear of the vehicle.

32 This bill provides that only one registration plate shall
33 be issued for a motor vehicle. The registration plate shall
34 be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle, except that the
35 registration plate for a truck tractor shall be attached to the

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1 front of the truck tractor, in accord with current law.

2 The bill also makes corresponding Code language changes,
3 directs the Code editor to make changes to language referring
4 to two registration plates rather than one, and provides for
5 the transition from the use of two registration plates to the
6 use of one registration plate.