

**House File 540 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 540

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(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 2015, 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 2015, 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 2015, 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 2015, are  
 13 amended to read as follows:

14 1. *Plates 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 2015, 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  
9 any change the Code editor deems necessary to any Code section  
10 that refers to the issuance of two rather than one vehicle  
11 registration plate when there appears to be no doubt as to the  
12 proper method of making the correction.

13 Sec. 7. TRANSITION PROVISIONS. The transition from the  
14 use of motor vehicle registration plates on both the front  
15 and rear of certain vehicles to the use of such plates on  
16 only the rear of certain vehicles, as directed by this Act,  
17 shall be accomplished in stages. A person applying for a new  
18 or replacement registration plate on or after July 1, 2015,  
19 shall receive only one registration plate. Otherwise, the  
20 transition shall not be accomplished until a new series of  
21 registration plates is issued to replace a current series. The  
22 department of transportation shall adopt rules to implement the  
23 transition.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill provides that only one registration plate shall  
28 be issued for a motor vehicle. The registration plate is to  
29 be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle, except that the  
30 registration plate for a truck tractor is to be attached to  
31 the front of the truck tractor. Currently, two registration  
32 plates are issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle,  
33 motorized bicycle, or truck tractor, to be attached to the  
34 front and rear of the vehicle.

35 The bill also makes corresponding Code language changes,

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1 directs the Code editor to make changes to language referring  
2 to two registration plates rather than one, and provides for  
3 the transition from the use of two registration plates to the  
4 use of one registration plate.