

House Study Bill 574 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON JONES)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to motor vehicles, including window tint and the
2 issuance and display of one registration plate, and making
3 penalties applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

ISSUANCE AND DISPLAY OF ONE REGISTRATION PLATE

Section 1. Section 321.18, subsection 7, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

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

Sec. 2. Section 321.22, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

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

Sec. 3. Section 321.26, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

2. The county treasurer may adjust the registration renewal or expiration date of vehicles for which the county treasurer is responsible for renewal under section 321.40 when deemed necessary to equalize the number of vehicles registered in each twelve-month period or for the administrative efficiency of the county treasurer's office. The adjustment shall be accomplished by delivery of a written notice to the vehicle owner of the adjustment and allowance of a credit for the remaining months of the unused portion of the annual registration fee, rounded to the nearest whole dollar, which amount shall be deducted from the annual registration fee due at the time of registration.

1 Upon receipt of the notification the owner shall, within thirty
 2 days, surrender the registration card and registration ~~plates~~
 3 plate to any county treasurer, except that the registration
 4 ~~plates~~ plate shall not be surrendered if a validation ~~stickers~~
 5 sticker or other ~~emblems~~ are emblem is used to designate the
 6 month and year of expiration of registration. Upon payment of
 7 the annual registration fee, less the credit allowed for the
 8 remaining months of the unused portion of the annual registration
 9 fee, the county treasurer that adjusted the registration renewal
 10 or expiration date of the vehicle shall issue a new registration
 11 card and registration ~~plates~~ plate, validation ~~stickers~~ sticker,
 12 or ~~emblems~~ emblem which ~~indicate~~ indicates the month and year of
 13 expiration of registration.

14 Sec. 4. Section 321.34, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2026, are
 15 amended to read as follows:

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

1 2. *Validation stickers.*

2 a. In lieu of issuing a new registration plates plate each
3 registration year for a vehicle renewing registration, the
4 department may reassign the registration plates plate previously
5 issued to the vehicle and may adopt and prescribe an annual
6 validation sticker indicating payment of annual registration
7 fees. The department shall issue one validation sticker for each
8 ~~set of registration plates plate~~. The sticker must specify the
9 month and year of expiration of the registration plates plate.
10 ~~The sticker shall be displayed only on the rear registration~~
11 ~~plate, except that the sticker shall be displayed on the front~~
12 ~~registration plate of a truck tractor.~~ A validation sticker
13 issued for the upcoming registration year prior to the expiration
14 of the applicable current registration year does not invalidate
15 the registration, and is not required to be displayed on the
16 registered vehicle's registration plate until the owner would
17 be considered to be driving a motor vehicle with an expired
18 registration under section 321.39.

19 b. The state department of transportation shall adopt rules
20 to provide for the placement of the motor vehicle registration
21 validation sticker.

22 Sec. 5. Section 321.37, Code 2026, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **321.37 Display of plates plate.**

25 1. ~~Registration plates~~ The registration plate issued for a
26 motor vehicle other than an ~~autocycle, motorcycle, motorized~~
27 ~~bicycle, or~~ a truck tractor shall be attached to the rear of
28 the motor vehicle, one in the front and the other in the rear.
29 ~~The registration plate issued for an autocycle, motorcycle, or~~
30 ~~other vehicle required to be registered under this chapter shall~~
31 ~~be attached to the rear of the vehicle.~~ The registration plate
32 issued for a truck tractor shall be attached to the front of the
33 truck tractor. The special plate issued to a dealer shall be
34 attached on the rear of the vehicle when operated on the highways
35 of this state.

1 ~~2. A motor vehicle, other than a truck registered for more~~
2 ~~than five tons, autocycle, motorcycle, or truck tractor, which~~
3 ~~is model year 1948 or older, and a reconstructed or specially~~
4 ~~constructed vehicle built to resemble a model year 1948 vehicle~~
5 ~~or older, may display one registration plate on the rear of the~~
6 ~~vehicle if the other registration plate issued to the vehicle is~~
7 ~~carried in the vehicle at all times when the vehicle is operated~~
8 ~~on a public highway.~~

9 ~~3.~~ 2. It is unlawful for the owner of a vehicle to place any
10 frame around or over the registration plate which does not permit
11 full view of all numerals and letters printed on the registration
12 plate.

13 Sec. 6. Section 321.115, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
14 2026, is amended to read as follows:

15 c. The owner of a motor vehicle registered under this
16 subsection may display an authentic Iowa registration plate or
17 set of plates from the model year of the motor vehicle, furnished
18 by the person and approved by the department, in lieu of the
19 current and valid Iowa registration plates plate issued for the
20 vehicle, provided that the current and valid Iowa registration
21 plates plate and the registration card issued for the vehicle are
22 simultaneously carried within the vehicle and are available for
23 inspection to any peace officer upon the officer's request.

24 Sec. 7. Section 321.115A, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 1. A motor vehicle may be registered as a replica vehicle
27 or street rod. The annual registration fee is the fee provided
28 for in section 321.109, 321.113, 321.122, or 321.124. The
29 owner of a vehicle registered under this section may display
30 a registration plate or set of plates from or representing the
31 model year of the motor vehicle or the model year of the motor
32 vehicle the registered vehicle is designed to resemble, furnished
33 by the person and approved by the department, in lieu of the
34 current and valid Iowa registration plates plate issued for the
35 vehicle, provided that the current and valid Iowa registration

1 ~~plates~~ plate and the registration card issued for the vehicle are
2 simultaneously carried within the vehicle and are available for
3 inspection to any peace officer upon the officer's request.

4 Sec. 8. Section 321.385A, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
5 2026, is amended to read as follows:

6 b. A citation issued for failure to have rear lamps as
7 required under section 321.387 or a ~~rear~~ registration plate light
8 as required under section 321.388 shall first provide for a
9 seventy-two hour period within which the person charged with the
10 violation shall replace or repair the lamps or light.

11 Sec. 9. Section 321.385A, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. If the person complies with the directive to replace or
14 repair the headlamp, rear lamps, or ~~rear~~ registration plate light
15 within the allotted time period, the citation shall be expunged.
16 If the person fails to comply within the allotted time period,
17 the citation shall be processed in the same manner as other
18 citations.

19 Sec. 10. Section 321.388, Code 2026, is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 **321.388 Illuminating plates Registration plate illuminated.**

22 Either the rear lamp or a separate lamp shall be so
23 constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the
24 ~~rear~~ registration plate attached to the rear of the vehicle and
25 render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the
26 rear. When the ~~rear~~ registration plate is illuminated by an
27 electric lamp other than the required rear lamp, the two lamps
28 shall be turned on or off only by the same control switch at
29 all times when headlamps are lighted. This section does not
30 apply to commercial vehicles engaged exclusively in intrastate
31 commerce that are dump trucks or that are used exclusively for
32 the movement of construction materials and equipment to and from
33 construction projects.

34 Sec. 11. Section 321J.4B, subsection 5, paragraph f,
35 subparagraph (1), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

1 (1) If the vehicle subject to the court order is not in
2 the custody of a law enforcement agency, the person or agency
3 designated in the order as the person or agency responsible for
4 executing the order shall, upon receipt of the order, promptly
5 locate the vehicle specified in the order, seize the motor
6 vehicle and the ~~license plates~~ registration plate, and send or
7 deliver the vehicle's ~~license plates~~ registration plate to the
8 department.

9 Sec. 12. Section 321J.4B, subsection 7, Code 2026, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 7. a. Upon receipt of a notice of conviction of the
12 defendant for a violation of subsection 2, the impounding
13 authority shall seize the motor vehicle's ~~license plates~~
14 registration plate and registration, and shall send or deliver
15 them to the department.

16 b. The department shall destroy ~~license plates~~ a registration
17 plate received under this section and shall not authorize
18 the release of the vehicle or the issuance of a new license
19 ~~plates~~ registration plate for the vehicle until the period
20 of impoundment or immobilization has expired, and the fee and
21 costs assessed under subsection 10 have been paid. The fee
22 for issuance of a new license plates registration plate and
23 ~~certificates~~ certificate of registration shall be the same as for
24 the replacement of a lost, mutilated, or destroyed license plates
25 registration plate and ~~certificates~~ certificate of registration.

26 Sec. 13. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor may make
27 any change the Code editor deems necessary to correct any Code
28 section or any enacted legislation that refers, in any context,
29 to a set of, a pair of, or two motor vehicle registration plates
30 for one vehicle, rather than one registration plate, when there
31 appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of making the
32 correction.

33 Sec. 14. TRANSITION PROVISIONS. The transition from the use
34 of motor vehicle registration plates on both the front and rear
35 of certain vehicles to the use of such plates on only the rear

1 of certain vehicles, as directed by this division of this Act,
2 shall be accomplished in stages. A person applying for a new
3 or replacement registration plate on or after the effective date
4 of this division of this Act shall receive only one registration
5 plate. Otherwise, the transition shall not be accomplished until
6 a new series of registration plates is issued to replace a
7 current series. A person who was issued a pair of registration
8 plates, including special registration plates, may attach only
9 one plate in accordance with this division of this Act on and
10 after the effective date of this division of this Act. A person
11 who is required to transfer a registration plate, or to return
12 a registration plate to the department of transportation or to
13 a county treasurer, shall transfer or return both plates, as
14 applicable, if the person was issued a pair of plates. The
15 department of transportation may adopt rules pursuant to chapter
16 17A to implement the transition.

17 DIVISION II

18 WINDOW TINT

19 Sec. 15. Section 321.438, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 2. a. A person shall not operate on the highway a motor
22 vehicle equipped with a front windshield, a side window to the
23 immediate right or left of the driver, or a sidewing forward
24 of and to the left or right of the driver ~~which is excessively~~
25 ~~dark or reflective so that it is difficult for a person outside~~
26 ~~the motor vehicle to see into the motor vehicle through the~~
27 windshield, window, or sidewing that meets a minimum standard of
28 transparency of less than fifty percent light transmittance.

29 ~~α. The department shall adopt rules establishing a minimum~~
30 ~~measurable standard of transparency which shall apply to~~
31 ~~violations of this subsection.~~

32 b. This subsection does not apply to a person who operates
33 a motor vehicle owned or leased by a federal, state, or local
34 law enforcement agency if the operation is part of the person's
35 official duties.

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EXPLANATION

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

ISSUANCE AND DISPLAY OF ONE REGISTRATION PLATE. Under current law, two registration plates are issued for a motor vehicle other than an autocycle, motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or truck tractor, and are required to be attached to the front and rear of the vehicle. This bill provides that only one registration plate must be issued for a motor vehicle. The registration plate must be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle, except that the registration plate for a truck tractor must be attached to the front of the truck tractor, in accordance with current law.

The bill also makes corresponding changes, directs the Code editor to make necessary changes, and provides for the transition from the use of two registration plates to the use of one registration plate. A person who was issued two registration plates is authorized to attach only one plate, in accordance with the bill, on and after the effective date of the bill, and must transfer or return both plates if a transfer or return is required.

WINDOW TINT. Under current law, a person is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle equipped with a front windshield, a side window to the immediate right or left of the driver, or a sidewing forward of and to the left or right of the driver (window) which is excessively dark or reflective so that it is difficult for a person outside the motor vehicle to see into the motor vehicle through the window. Under rules adopted by the department of transportation (DOT) (761 IAC 450.5), "excessively dark or reflective" means the window does not meet a minimum standard of transparency of 70 percent light transmittance. However, the requirement does not apply to a person who operates a motor vehicle owned or leased by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency if the operation is part of the person's official duties.

The bill strikes the authority of the DOT to adopt rules

1 establishing a minimum measurable standard of transparency and
2 instead prohibits a person from operating on the highway a motor
3 vehicle equipped with a window that meets a minimum standard of
4 transparency of less than 50 percent light transmittance.
5 A violation of Code section 321.438 is punishable by a
6 scheduled fine of \$70.

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