

**Senate File 135 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 135  
BY SCHULTZ

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the display of a validation sticker on a  
2 vehicle registration plate.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.34, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

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

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 Under current law, the department of transportation is  
24 authorized to issue validation stickers in lieu of new  
25 registration plates each registration year. The validation  
26 sticker indicates a vehicle is properly registered for the  
27 registration year described on the sticker when it is displayed  
28 on the vehicle's registration plate. A person is authorized to  
29 apply to renew the registration of a vehicle one month prior to  
30 the expiration of the current registration year, and must apply  
31 for renewal no later than the last day of the month following  
32 the month of registration to avoid a penalty. Pursuant to Code  
33 section 321.39, a person is not considered to be driving a motor  
34 vehicle with an expired registration for a period of one month  
35 following the expiration date of the vehicle registration, which

1 is indicated on a validation sticker.

2 Code section 321.34(1) requires, as part of a transfer, the  
3 owner of a vehicle to immediately affix registration plates  
4 retained by the owner to another vehicle owned or acquired by the  
5 owner, provided the owner complies with provisions regulating the  
6 process required for new title and registration upon transfer of  
7 ownership of a vehicle.

8 This bill clarifies that a validation sticker issued for  
9 the upcoming registration year to a vehicle owner prior to  
10 the expiration of the applicable current registration year does  
11 not invalidate the registration, and is not required to be  
12 displayed on the registered vehicle's plate until the owner would  
13 be considered to be driving a motor vehicle with an expired  
14 registration under Code section 321.39.

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