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H.307

Introduced by Representative LaClair of Barre Town

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: motor vehicles; front number plates; tinted windows

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to only require the display of the rear number plate on a motor vehicle in certain instances and permit tinting material on motor vehicle windows.

An act relating to front number plates and tinted windows on motor vehicles

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

§ 511. MANNER OF DISPLAY

(a) Issuance of number plates.

~~(1) A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the~~ Upon initial registration of a motor vehicle, the Commissioner may require shall furnish one number plate, except that the Commissioner shall furnish two number plates for motor trucks with a registered weight of 10,100 pounds or more.

1 (2) Registrants may obtain additional plates of the same design and
2 assigned number upon payment of the fee prescribed in section 514 of this
3 title.

4 (b) Display of number plates. Such number plates shall be furnished by the
5 Commissioner and Number plates shall show the number assigned to such the
6 vehicle by the Commissioner and shall be displayed in a conspicuous place as
7 prescribed by the Commissioner. If only one number plate is furnished, the
8 same shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle.

9 (1) If two number plates are furnished pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of
10 this section, one shall be securely attached to the rear and one to the front of
11 the vehicle. In all other instances, one number plate shall be securely attached
12 to the rear of the vehicle and the registrant may choose whether to attach a
13 corresponding number plate to the front of the vehicle.

14 (2) The number Number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and
15 the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. They
16 shall be kept horizontal, shall be so fastened as not to swing, excepting
17 however, except that there may be installed on a motor truck or truck tractor a
18 device that would, upon contact with a substantial object, permit the rear
19 number plate to swing toward the front of the vehicle, provided such that the
20 device automatically returns the number plate to its original rigid position after
21 contact is released, and the ground clearance of the lower edges thereof shall

1 be established by the Commissioner pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A.
2 chapter 25.

3 ~~(b)~~(c) Display of validation sticker. A registration validation sticker shall
4 be unobstructed and shall be affixed as follows:

5 (1) for vehicles issued one or more registration plates with dimensions
6 of approximately 12 x 6 inches, in the lower right corner of the rear registration
7 plate; and

8 (2) for vehicles issued a registration plate with a dimension of
9 approximately 7 x 4 inches, in the upper right corner of the rear registration
10 plate.

11 ~~(e)~~(d) Operation. ~~A person~~ An individual shall not operate a motor vehicle
12 unless a number plate or plates and a validation sticker are displayed as
13 provided in this section.

14 ~~(d)~~(e) Enforcement.

15 (1) An operator cited for violating subsection ~~(e)~~(d) of this section with
16 respect to failure to display a validation sticker on a pleasure car, motorcycle,
17 or truck that could be registered for less than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to
18 a civil penalty of not more than \$5.00, which penalty shall be exempt from
19 surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if he or she is cited within the 14 days
20 following the expiration of the motor vehicle's registration.

1 (2) Except for the operator of a motor truck with a registered weight of
2 10,100 pounds or more, no motor vehicle operator shall be cited for violating
3 subsection (b) of this section if the rear number plate is properly displayed.

4 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 514 is amended to read:

5 § 514. REPLACEMENT OR ADDITIONAL NUMBER PLATES

6 (a) In case of the loss of a number plate, the owner of the motor vehicle to
7 which it was assigned shall immediately notify the Commissioner of such loss,
8 and the Commissioner shall furnish ~~such~~ the owner with a new plate and may
9 issue a temporary plate to use in the interim. The fee charged shall be \$12.00
10 for each plate. The owner of a motor ~~vehicle~~ truck with a registered weight of
11 10,100 pounds or more who has lost one number plate may operate ~~his or her~~
12 the vehicle with only one number plate attached, until a new plate is furnished
13 ~~him or her~~, provided ~~he or she~~ the owner notified the Commissioner as
14 required under this section.

15 (b) Any replacement or additional number plate shall be issued at a fee of
16 \$12.00. However, if ~~the Commissioner, in his or her~~ in the Commissioner's
17 sole discretion, ~~determines that~~ a plate has become illegible as a result of
18 deficiencies in the manufacturing process or by use of faulty materials, the
19 ~~replacement~~ fee shall be waived.

20 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1125 is amended to read:

21 § 1125. OBSTRUCTING WINDSHIELDS, WINDOWS

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, ~~a person~~ an individual
2 shall not operate a motor vehicle on which material or items have been painted
3 or adhered on or over, or hung in back of, any transparent part of a motor
4 vehicle windshield, vent windows, or side windows located immediately to the
5 left and right of the operator. The prohibition of this section on hanging items
6 shall apply only when a hanging item materially obstructs the driver's view.

7 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, ~~a person~~ an individual
8 may operate a motor vehicle with material or items painted or adhered on or
9 over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows:

10 * * *

11 (4) if the operator is ~~a person~~ an individual employed by the federal,
12 State, or local government or a volunteer emergency responder operating an
13 authorized emergency vehicle, who places any necessary equipment in back of
14 the windshield of the vehicle, provided the equipment does not interfere with
15 the operator's control of the driving mechanism of the vehicle;

16 (5) on a motor vehicle that is for sale by a licensed automobile dealer
17 prior to the sale of the vehicle, in a space not over three inches high and six
18 inches long in the upper left-hand corner of the windshield, and in a space not
19 over four inches high and 18 inches long in the upper right-hand corner of the
20 windshield; ~~or~~

1 (6) if the object is a rearview mirror, or is an electronic toll-collection
2 transponder located either between the roof line and the rearview mirror post
3 or behind the rearview mirror; or

4 (7) if the object is window shading or tinting material to shield from the
5 rays of the sun and placed on the vent windows or side windows located
6 immediately to the left and right of the operator, provided that if the shading or
7 tinting material tears, bubbles, or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision, it
8 shall be removed or replaced.

9 ~~(c) The Commissioner may grant an exemption to the prohibition of this~~
10 ~~section upon application from a person required for medical reasons to be~~
11 ~~shielded from the rays of the sun and who attaches to the application a~~
12 ~~document signed by a licensed physician or optometrist certifying that~~
13 ~~shielding from the rays of the sun is a medical necessity. The physician or~~
14 ~~optometrist certification shall be renewed every four years. However, when a~~
15 ~~licensed physician or optometrist has previously certified to the Commissioner~~
16 ~~that an applicant's condition is both permanent and stable, the exemption may~~
17 ~~be renewed by the applicant without submission of a form signed by a licensed~~
18 ~~physician or optometrist. Additionally, the window shading or tinting~~
19 ~~permitted under this subsection shall be limited to the vent windows or side~~
20 ~~windows located immediately to the left and right of the operator. The~~
21 ~~exemption provided in this subsection shall terminate upon the transfer of the~~

1 ~~approved vehicle and at that time the applicable window tinting shall be~~
2 ~~removed by the seller. Furthermore, if the material described in this subsection~~
3 ~~tears or bubbles or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision, it shall be~~
4 ~~removed or replaced. [Repealed.]~~

5 (d) The rear side windows and the back window may be obstructed only if
6 the motor vehicle is equipped on each side with a securely attached mirror,
7 ~~which~~ that provides the operator with a clear view of the roadway in the rear
8 and on both sides of the motor vehicle.

9 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.