

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 846

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

MTR VEHICLE/LICEN PLATES: Prohibits drivers from obscuring license plates with coverings or films

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:53(A)(3), relative to the display of motor vehicle license
3 plates; to prohibit the application of coverings, films, substances, or devices over or
4 on a license plate that impedes the visibility of the license plate; to define the term
5 "obscure"; to establish penalties for violations; to provide for an effective date; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 32:53(A)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §53. Proper equipment required on vehicles; display of plate

10 A.

11 * * *

12 (3)(a) Every permanent registration license plate shall at all times be
13 securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned, so as to prevent the plate
14 from swinging, and at a height not less than twelve inches from the ground,
15 measuring from the bottom of such plate, in a place and position to be clearly visible,
16 and shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly
17 legible. Unless authorized by the commissioner, a person shall not apply a any
18 covering, film, electrochromatic film, coating, spray, frame, bracket, or any

1 substance ~~to~~ , electronic and nonelectronic device, or any material over or on the
2 license plate ~~or use an electronic device or electrochromatic film~~ that obscures from
3 any angle the numbers, characters, year registration sticker, or name of the
4 jurisdiction issuing the plate.

5 (b) For purposes of this Paragraph, "obscure" shall refer to any action or
6 method that diminishes the visibility, legibility, or reflectivity of any numbers,
7 characters, decals, stickers, symbols, or jurisdictional identifiers on a license plate.

8 (c) Notwithstanding the penalty provisions contained in R.S. 32:57, any
9 person who violates the provisions provided for in this Paragraph shall incur a fine
10 not to exceed seventy-five dollars for the first offense and a fine of two hundred fifty
11 dollars for a second and any subsequent offense.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 846 Reengrossed

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Bayham

Abstract: Prohibits drivers from obscuring license plates with films, coatings, spray, frame, bracket, or devices placed over the license plate. Additionally, defines "obscure" and establishes penalties for violations.

Present law (R.S. 32:53(A)(3)) requires that a permanent registration license plate be securely fastened, clearly visible, and free from foreign materials. Prohibits application of any covering or substance to the license plate or using an electronic or electrochromatic film that obscures the numbers, characters, registration sticker, or name of the issuing jurisdiction.

Proposed law modifies present law by clarifying that the prohibition applies to any covering, film, including electrochromatic film, coating, spray, frame, bracket, substance, electronic and nonelectronic device, or any material over or on the license plate. Defines "obscure" as impairing the visibility, legibility, or reflectivity of any feature of the license plate, including the numbers, letters, symbols, registration stickers, or security features, when viewed from any angle. Establishes a tiered penalty structure, different from present law (R.S. 32:57), under which a first offense results in a fine not to exceed \$75 and a fine of \$250 for a second and any subsequent offense.

Effective on January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 32:53(A)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Establish an effective date of January 1, 2027, for proposed law.