

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 888

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

MTR VEHICLE/LICEN PLATES: Provides for the regulations of temporary dealers plates

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 47:473(H), 519(A), 520(E), and (F) and to enact R.S. 47:519(P),  
3 520(G) through (I), and 521(D), relative to certain requirements for the design,  
4 authentication, and regulation of temporary registration plates; to provide for dealer  
5 inventory plates requirements; to provide for effectiveness of application fees; to  
6 provide for security features and design of temporary registration plates; to provide  
7 for placement of temporary registration plates; to provide for rule promulgation of  
8 temporary registration plates to prevent counterfeiting; and to provide for related  
9 matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 47:473(H), 519(A), 520(E), and (F) are hereby amended and  
12 reenacted and R.S. 47:519(P), 520(G) through (I) and 521(D) are hereby enacted to read as  
13 follows:

14 §473. Dealer inventory plates

15 \* \* \*

16 H.(1) Dealers may allow authorized employees of educational institutions  
17 or licensed sales representatives of the dealer, or both, to use, for any purpose, a  
18 motor vehicle to which the dealer has attached a dealer inventory plate, provided the  
19 arrangement does not constitute renting or leasing the vehicle to the employee or  
20 sales representative. Renting or leasing does not include those transactions where

1 a dealer-provided automobile is treated as a taxable fringe benefit to the licensed  
2 sales representative of the dealer under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. 61 et seq. and the  
3 regulations issued thereunder.

4 (2) A licensed motor vehicle dealer may permit a customer of the dealer to  
5 operate a motor vehicle to which the dealer has attached a dealer inventory plate as  
6 a temporary courtesy loaner vehicle when the customer's motor vehicle is undergoing  
7 repair or warranty service by the dealer.

8 (3) The operation of a motor vehicle in compliance with this Subsection shall  
9 constitute a lawful use of a dealer's plate for the purposes of R.S. 47:505(D).

10 \* \* \*

11 §519. Temporary registration plates issued by dealers

12 A.(1) Issuance by commissioner to dealer. The commissioner may, subject  
13 to the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, deliver temporary registration  
14 plates designed by the commissioner, or paper or card stock approved by the  
15 commissioner for print on demand temporary registration plates to a licensed  
16 automobile, trailer, truck, motorcycle, or other motor driven cycle, or motorized  
17 camper dealer who applies for same and who enclosed with such application a fee  
18 of twenty dollars per plate or piece of approved paper or card stock for which  
19 application is made by a licensed dealer. Such application shall be made upon a form  
20 prescribed and furnished or on a website approved by the commissioner. Dealers  
21 subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in this Section may issue such  
22 temporary registration plates to owners of vehicles, except apportioned trucks,  
23 provided that such owners shall comply with the pertinent provisions of this Section.

24 (2) The application fee provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall  
25 not be charged until the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the  
26 electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration  
27 plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the  
28 commissioner.

29 \* \* \*

1           P. To ensure the security and durability of temporary registration plates,  
2           while preventing counterfeiting, the commissioner shall do the following:

3           (1) Approve all paper or card stock for use in print-on-demand temporary  
4           registration plates to incorporate security features designed to prevent counterfeiting,  
5           forgery, alteration, or duplication, including but not limited to:

6           (a) Serialized identifiers.

7           (b) Embedded security markings, including latent images or void pantograph  
8           technologies.

9           (c) Tamper-resistant or tamper-evident features, including destructible  
10          holographic elements or similar authentication devices.

11          (d) Machine-readable elements.

12          (e) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established  
13          by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of  
14          motor vehicles, for print permanence and weather resistance.

15          (f) Official state-approved insignias or seals as an authentication feature.

16          (2) Ensure temporary registration plates shall be generated only through the  
17          electronic issuance system approved by the commissioner of the office of motor  
18          vehicles, and no temporary registration plate number, image, or format may be  
19          reproduced, duplicated, altered, or generated outside of this system.

20          (3) Ensure paper or card stock used for temporary registration plates shall  
21          be sufficiently durable to withstand exposure to ordinary weather conditions for the  
22          full period of the authorized temporary registration, including rain, sunlight, heat,  
23          humidity, wind, and normal vehicle operation. For purposes of this Subsection,  
24          ordinary weather conditions shall be presumed to include outdoor exposure for a  
25          minimum of sixty days.

26          (4) Mandate that temporary registration plates remain legible and clearly  
27          readable throughout the authorized registration period. Fading, discoloration,  
28          bleeding of ink, warping, delamination, or loss of contrast that materially impairs the

1 legibility during the authorized registration period shall constitute noncompliance  
2 with this Section.

3 (5) Use printing methods, inks, and materials that are of sufficient quality to  
4 ensure that required information, including the registration number, expiration date,  
5 and any machine-readable elements, does not fade or become illegible due to  
6 ordinary weather exposure.

7 (6) The commissioner shall promulgate rules establishing minimum security,  
8 material, durability, and legibility standards for approved paper or card stock and  
9 may suspend or revoke approval of any paper or card stock that fails to meet such  
10 standards.

11 §520. Dealers temporary demonstration and transportation identification plate

12 \* \* \*

13 E. Each identification plate shall be valid for ~~five days from the date~~ ten  
14 consecutive calendar days, including the date on which the identification plate was  
15 placed in service, and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on the tenth day.

16 F. Each dealership which places an identification plate in service on a motor  
17 vehicle may use that motor vehicle for any business purpose of the dealership,  
18 including but not limited to the demonstration or transportation of that vehicle, or  
19 temporary customer loaner use while a customer's motor vehicle is undergoing  
20 service or repair.

21 G. The identification plate may be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle.

22 H. For purposes of this Section, "placed in service" shall mean the first date  
23 on which the identification plate is displayed on a motor vehicle for use.

24 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the provisions  
25 of this Section shall govern the use of identification plates.

26 §521. Display of temporary license plates

27 \* \* \*

1           D. Identification plates issued pursuant to R.S. 47:520 shall not be required  
 2           to be fastened to the rear bumper of the motor vehicle. The identification plate may  
 3           be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle.

4           Section 2. The provisions of R.S. 47:519(P) shall become effective when the  
 5           commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system  
 6           is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper  
 7           or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

#### 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 888 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Melerine

**Abstract:** Provides for certain requirements for the design, authentication, and regulation of temporary registration plates and dealer identification plates.

Present law (R.S. 47:473(H)) permits dealers to allow authorized employees of educational institutions or licensed sales representatives of the dealer to use a vehicle with an attached dealer inventory plate, provided the arrangement does not constitute renting or leasing the vehicle to the employee or sales representative. Specifies that renting or leasing does not include those transactions where a dealer-provided automobile is treated as a taxable fringe benefit to the licensed sales representative of the dealer under the provisions of federal law and regulations.

Proposed law redesignates present law and authorizes a licensed motor vehicle dealer to permit a customer to operate a vehicle that the dealer has attached a dealer inventory plate as a temporary courtesy loaner vehicle when the customer's motor vehicle is undergoing repair or warranty service by the dealer. Specifies that the use of a motor vehicle pursuant proposed law requires:

- (1) Limited to personal and noncommercial use.
- (2) Not exceed 30 days, unless extended for good cause directly related to the completion of the repair or service.
- (3) Not constitute the renting or leasing of a motor vehicle for purposes of state law.

Proposed law specifies that the operation of a motor vehicle in compliance with proposed law constitute a lawful use of a dealer's plate for the purposes of present law.

Present law (R.S. 47:519(A)) authorizes the commissioner of OMV to issue temporary registration plates to motor vehicle dealers and charge a \$20 application fee per plate. The commission is authorized to design the plates.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the requirement that the application fee not be charged until the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

Proposed law adds a requirement that the commissioner do the following to prevent counterfeiting of temporary registration plates:

- (1) Approve all paper or card stock for use in print-on-demand temporary registration plates to incorporate security features designed to prevent counterfeiting, forgery, alteration, or duplication, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Serialized identifiers.
  - (b) Embedded security markings, including latent images or void pantograph technologies.
  - (c) Tamper-resistant or tamper-evident features, including destructible holographic elements or similar authentication devices.
  - (d) Machine-readable elements.
  - (e) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established by the commissioner of the DPS&C, OMV, for print permanence and weather resistance.
  - (f) Official state-approved insignias or seals as an authentication feature.
- (2) Ensure temporary registration plates will be generated only through the electronic issuance system and no temporary registration plate number, image, or format may be reproduced, duplicated, altered, or generated outside such system.
- (3) Ensure paper or card stock used for temporary registration plates will be sufficiently durable to withstand exposure to ordinary weather conditions for the full period of authorized temporary registration, including rain, sunlight, heat, humidity, wind, and normal vehicle operation. Requires ordinary weather conditions be presumed to include outdoor exposure for a minimum of 60 days.
- (4) Mandate that temporary registration plates remain legible and clearly readable throughout the authorized registration period. Specifies that fading, discoloration, bleeding of ink, warping, delamination, or loss of contrast that materially impairs the legibility during the authorized registration period will constitute noncompliance with proposed law.
- (5) Use printing methods, inks and materials that are of sufficient quality to ensure that required information, including the registration number, expiration date, and any machine-readable elements, does not fade or become illegible due to ordinary weather exposure.
- (6) Promulgate rules establishing minimum security, material, durability, and legibility standards for approved paper or card stock and may suspend or revoke approval of any paper or card stock that fails to meet such standards.

Present law (R.S. 47:520(E)) specifies that each identification plate is valid for five days from the date the identification plate was placed in service.

Proposed law changes the validity date from five days to 10 consecutive calendar days, including the date the identification plate was placed in service, and will expire at 11:59 p.m. on the 10th day.

Present law (R.S. 47:520(F)) authorizes dealerships that place an identification plate in service on a motor vehicle to use that vehicle for any business purpose of the dealership, including but not limited to the demonstration or transportation of that vehicle.

Proposed law adds that a temporary customer loaner may use the vehicle while the customer's vehicle is undergoing service or repair.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(G)) allows the identification plate to be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(H)) defines "placed in service" as the first date on which the identification plate is displayed on a motor vehicle for use pursuant proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(I)) specifies that proposed law governs identification plates, unless contrary to other present law.

Present law (R.S. 47:521) requires temporary registration license plates be clearly visible and fastened to the rear of the vehicle which has been assigned on the rear bumper of the vehicle or a location designed by the manufacturer.

Proposed law includes that temporary registration license plate do not have to be fastened to the rear bumper of the motor vehicle if it is a dealers temporary demonstration and transportation vehicle. Further specifies that the identification plate may be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle.

Requires the provisions of proposed law (R.S. 47:519(P)) become effective when the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.

(Amends R.S. 47:473(H), 519(A), and 520(E), and (F); Adds R.S. 47:519(P), 520(G)-(I), and 521(D))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required motor vehicle dealers complete and place in the vehicle a document that includes certain information about the dealer, customer, and vehicle.
3. Add a provision that prevents the application fee from being charged until the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.
4. Add that embedded security markings include latent images or void pantograph technologies.
5. Add that tamper-resistant or tamper-evident features include destructible holographic elements or similar authentication devices.
6. Add the following security features for temporary registration plates:
  - (a) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, for print permanence and weather resistance.

- (b) Official state-approved insignias or seals as an authentication feature to ensure the security and durability of temporary registration plates.
- 7. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required the form of the temporary identification plates be consistent with the size, design, and other characteristics established by the office of motor vehicles.
- 8. Clarify proposed law by removing a provision that provided that the identification plate affixed to the rear window of the vehicle assigned or displayed at another clearly visible location on the rear window of the vehicle, include a location designed for license plate display by the manufacturer that would have applied to dealership identification plates and the display of temporary license plates.
- 9. Remove a proposed law provision that would have required the temporary registration license plate or identification plate be maintained in a condition that is clearly legible and free from foreign materials. Also remove that the plate may be covered or encased in a clear, transparent material, provided that the covering does not obscure any information on the plate and the plate remains readable from a distance of sixty feet.
- 10. Add a requirement that proposed law (R.S. 47:519(P)) become effective when the commissioner provides public notice of the date that the electronic issuance system is established for print-on-demand temporary registration plates and the secure paper or card stock is approved and implemented by the commissioner.