

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 888

2026 Regular Session

Melerine

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

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Clarifies that certain statutory provisions regarding license plates issued to manufacturers, wholesalers, or distributors and the sale of temporary license plates to lending institutions do not limit the commissioner's authority to deliver temporary registration plates with an approved design.
2. Changes certain requirements of the commissioner relative to preventing counterfeiting of temporary registration plates.
3. Adds a provision requiring the commissioner to consult with licensed motor vehicle dealers prior to implementing the print-on-demand system and making any material change to the system.
4. Adds an effective date upon signature of the governor provision.
5. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 authorizes licensed motor vehicle dealers to permit customers to operate a vehicle, if a dealer inventory plate is attached, as a temporary courtesy loaner vehicle if the customer's vehicle is under repair or warranty service by the dealer. Specifies that the operation of a motor vehicle in compliance with proposed law constitutes 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 the office of motor vehicles, OMV, to issue temporary registration plates to motor vehicle dealers and charge a \$20 application fee per plate. Authorizes the commissioner to design the plates.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies the commissioner's authority to deliver temporary registration plates, notwithstanding specific present law (R.S. 47:519.1 and 519.2). Further 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) A machine readable, serialized identifier.
 - (b) At least one anti-counterfeiting visual security feature, which may include embedded security markings such as latent images or void pantograph technologies, holographic or tamper-evident elements, or official state-approved insignias or seals.
 - (c) Durable synthetic or coated substrates meeting the standards established by the commissioner of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, OMV, for print permanence and weather resistance.
- (2) Ensure temporary registration plates are generated only through the electronic issuance system approved by the commissioner of the OMV, and no temporary registration plate number, image, or format may be reproduced, duplicated, altered, or generated outside of this system.
 - (3) Ensure that temporary registration plates, including substrate, printing methods, inks, and materials, remain fully legible and structurally intact for the full period of the authorized temporary registration. Requires ordinary weather conditions be presumed to include outdoor exposure for a minimum of 60 days, including exposure to rain, sunlight, heat, humidity, wind, and normal vehicle operation. Specifies fading, discoloration, bleeding of ink, warping, delamination, or loss of contrast that materially impairs legibility during the authorized registration period must constitute noncompliance with proposed law.
 - (4) The commissioner must promulgate rules establishing minimum security, material, durability, and legibility standards for the approved paper or card stock and may replace or redesignate the approved paper or card stock if it fails to meet such standards.
 - (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 to proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 47:520(I)) specifies that proposed law governs identification plates.

Present law (R.S. 47:521(A)) 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 (R.S. 47:521(D)) specifies that identification plates issued pursuant to present law (R.S. 47:520) are not required to be fastened to the rear bumper of a motor vehicle. Specifies that the plate can be affixed to the rear window of the vehicle.

Requires the commissioner to consult with representatives of licensed motor vehicle dealers prior to implementing the print-on-demand system and prior to making any material change to the system, including changes to approved paper or card stock, equipment requirements, or issuance procedures.

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.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(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))