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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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**2001 Assembly Bill 731**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

**Memo published: January 29, 2002**

**Contact: Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683)**

*Current law* provides that no person may display on a motor vehicle a registration plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration not issued for that motor vehicle. Any person who does so may be required to forfeit not more than \$500. Also under current law, subject to one exception, no person may transfer to another person or offer for sale a registration plate issued by the Department of Transportation. Any person who does so may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than seven years and six months, or both.

*Assembly Bill 731* creates specific prohibitions against displaying a stolen registration plate on a motor vehicle or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate. Under the bill, violators may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than nine months, or both.

The bill provides that a person charged with displaying a stolen registration plate or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate may raise the affirmative defense that he or she did not know and could not, by reasonable effort, have known that the registration plate was stolen. Any person who raises this affirmative defense must prove it by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence.

*Assembly Substitute Amendment 1* is the same as the bill except that the substitute amendment applies to a registration plate, insert tag, decal or other evidence of registration, while the bill applies only to a registration plate.

Adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1; and passage of the bill as amended; were recommended by the Assembly Committee on Transportation by votes of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0; on January 17, 2002.

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