



State of Wisconsin
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3448/3
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2021 SENATE BILL 429

June 24, 2021 - Introduced by Senators WANGGAARD, L. TAYLOR, FELZKOWSKI, JAGLER, KOOYENGA, MARKLEIN and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives ZIMMERMAN, DITTRICH, EDMING, JAMES, KURTZ, PLUMER, J. RODRIGUEZ, SPIROS, STEFFEN, TUSLER, SCHRAA, VANDERMEER and MURPHY. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 341.135; *to amend* 341.12 (4) (a), 341.16 (1)
2 (a) and 341.16 (2); and *to create* 341.12 (4) (am), 341.135 (2), 341.135 (3) and
3 341.16 (2s) of the statutes; **relating to:** construction and issuance of motor
4 vehicle registration plates.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to replace motor vehicle registration plates on a rolling seven-year basis beginning in 2022 and establishes requirements for the construction of plates.

Under current law, DOT must establish new designs for plates at intervals determined by DOT. Subsequently, DOT must issue plates with the new design at a time determined by DOT. Plates may also be replaced upon application of a vehicle owner in the case of lost, destroyed, or illegible plates.

Under the bill, beginning with registrations effective February 1, 2022, if the registration for a vehicle is renewed and plates for that vehicle have not been issued during the previous seven years, DOT must issue two new registration plates for the vehicle. The bill requires DOT to assess a \$6.50 fee for the replacement plates and \$3.25 for a plate that is lost, destroyed, or illegible.

Under current law, standard plates issued on an annual or biennial basis and plates issued for motor trucks with a gross weight of not more than 8,000 pounds must be treated with a reflectorized material or substance. DOT must, in conjunction with the Department of Corrections and the Department of

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Administration, establish the specifications for the reflectorized material and award a contract for supplying the material through a competitive bidding process.

The bill retains this requirement and provides that all new plates issued by DOT be constructed with aluminum plates and prismatic sheeting with embedded security features. The plate sheeting must be a type successfully used by the manufacturer in multiple jurisdictions and must also meet specified reflectivity and luminance values.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.12 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.12 (4) (a) All Subject to par. (am), all registration plates issued under s.
3 341.25 (1) (a) and for motor trucks having a gross weight of not more than 8,000
4 pounds shall be treated with a reflectorized material or substance. The department
5 shall prescribe the term for the use of reflectorized plates.

6 **SECTION 2.** 341.12 (4) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

7 341.12 (4) (am) Beginning with registrations initially effective February 1,
8 2022, all registration plates issued by the department shall be constructed with
9 aluminum plates tempered to a hardness and thickness of approximately 0.027
10 inches and prismatic sheeting with embedded security features. Registration plate
11 sheeting shall be of a type successfully used by the manufacturer in multiple
12 jurisdictions and shall have an initial minimum coefficient of reflectivity of 150
13 candelas per lux per square meter and an initial minimum luminance factor greater
14 than 55.

15 **SECTION 3.** 341.135 of the statutes is renumbered 341.135 (1) and amended to
16 read:

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1 341.135 (1) DESIGN. At intervals determined by the department, the
2 department shall establish new designs of registration plates to be issued under ss.
3 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m), (1q), (2), (2m), (6m), and (6r), 341.25 (1) (a), (c), (h), and (j) and
4 (2) (a), (b), and (c), and 341.26 (2) and (3) (a) 1. and (am). Any design for registration
5 plates issued for automobiles and for vehicles registered on the basis of gross weight
6 shall comply with the applicable design requirements of ss. 341.12 (3), 341.13, and
7 341.14 (6r) (c). The designs for registration plates specified in this ~~section~~ subsection
8 shall be as similar in appearance as practicable during each design interval. Except
9 as provided in ss. 341.13 (2r) and 341.14 (1), each registration plate issued under s.
10 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m), (1q), (2), (2m), (6m), or (6r), 341.25 (1) (a), (c), (h), or (j) or (2)
11 (a), (b), or (c), or 341.26 (2) or (3) (a) 1. or (am) during each design interval shall be
12 of the design established under this ~~section~~ subsection. The department may not
13 redesign registration plates for the special groups under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 53., 54., or
14 55. until July 1, 2010. ~~Notwithstanding s. 341.13 (3), as the department establishes~~
15 ~~new designs for registration plates under this section, the department shall, at the~~
16 ~~time determined appropriate by the department, issue registration plates of the new~~
17 ~~design to replace registration plates previously issued. This section does not apply~~
18 ~~to special group plates under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m., 33m., and 48m.~~

19 **SECTION 4.** 341.135 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

20 341.135 (2) ISSUANCE. Notwithstanding s. 341.13 (3), beginning with
21 registrations initially effective February 1, 2022, upon receipt of a completed
22 application to renew the registration of a vehicle under ss. 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m), (1q),
23 (2), (2m), (6m), or (6r), 341.25 (1) (a), (c), (h), or (j) or (2) (a), (b), or (c), or 341.26 (2)
24 or (3) (a) 1. or (am) for which a registration plate has not been issued during the

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1 previous 7 years, the department shall issue and deliver prepaid to the applicant 2
2 new registration plates of the design established under sub. (1).

3 **SECTION 5.** 341.135 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

4 341.135 (3) APPLICABILITY. This section does not apply to special group plates
5 under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m., 33m., or 48m.

6 **SECTION 6.** 341.16 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 341.16 (1) (a) Whenever a current registration plate is lost or destroyed, the
8 owner of the vehicle to which the plate was attached shall immediately apply to the
9 department for replacement. Except as provided in par. (b) and sub. (2m), upon
10 satisfactory proof of the loss or destruction of the plate and upon payment of a fee of
11 \$2 \$3.25 for each plate, the department shall issue a replacement.

12 **SECTION 7.** 341.16 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 341.16 (2) Whenever a current registration plate becomes illegible, the owner
14 of the vehicle to which the plate is attached shall apply to the department for a
15 replacement. Except as provided in sub. (2m), upon receipt of satisfactory proof of
16 illegibility, and upon payment of a fee of \$2 \$3.25 for each plate, the department shall
17 issue a replacement. Upon receipt of a replacement plate, the applicant shall destroy
18 the illegible plate.

19 **SECTION 8.** 341.16 (2s) of the statutes is created to read:

20 341.16 (2s) When the owner of a vehicle applies to the department to renew the
21 registration of a vehicle for which new plates are required under s. 341.135 (2), and
22 upon payment of a fee of \$6.50, the department shall issue new replacement plates.
23 Upon receipt of replacement plates, the applicant shall destroy the replaced plates.

24 **SECTION 9. Effective date.**

