



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

## *Senate Bill 641*

November 3, 2021

Good morning, members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 641.

Current statute requires DMV to issue and distribute physical temporary license plates or permits to motor vehicle dealers. This bill would eliminate DMV's statutory obligation to issue paper temporary plates and allow DMV to require electronic issuance of temporary plates. This bill updates and modernizes statutes to reflect best practices.

With today's modern technology, paper temporary plates simply don't make sense. These paper temporary plates have unique identifiers and are assigned to motor vehicle dealers and authorized third party agents. Therefore, using the unique identifier, DMV only has records of which authorized agent was assigned temporary plates, not the ultimate customer driving around with the temporary plates. Third party agents, when assigning the plate, record the customer information of the person assigned the temporary plates. This requires law enforcement to contact the agent, rather than DMV, to determine who that plate was assigned to, which is cumbersome, time-consuming, and inefficient.

The elimination of DMV's obligation to issue paper temporary plates under this bill will allow DMV to complete its transition to requiring electronic issuance of temporary plates. Electronic temporary plates are printed by the dealer or the vehicle owner following issuance. DMV has stopped distributing cardboard plates and this change will align the law with current practices. Electronic temporary plates were implemented for private vehicle sales in 2011 and motor vehicle dealers have been issuing temporary license plates electronically since 2019.

In addition, electronically delivered temp plates are assigned to individuals on DMV's database in real time. This means that law enforcement has immediate access to the registration information of the vehicle when making a traffic stop. This will help to deter fraud and assist law enforcement's traffic enforcement and investigative duties.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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