

9426

I N   A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 6, 2010

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Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring  
one number plate on the rear of each motor vehicle

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 402 of the vehi-  
2     cle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 109 of the laws of 2005, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     (a) No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on the  
5     public highways of this state unless such vehicle shall have a distinc-  
6     tive number assigned to it by the commissioner and a [set of] number  
7     [plates] PLATE issued by the commissioner with a number and other iden-  
8     tification matter if any, corresponding to that of the certificate of  
9     registration conspicuously displayed[, one] on the [front and one on  
10    the] rear of such vehicle, [each] EXCEPT IN CASE OF A TRACTOR WHEN SUCH  
11    NUMBER PLATE SHALL BE DISPLAYED ON THE FRONT OF THE VEHICLE AND NONE  
12    SHALL BE DISPLAYED ON ITS REAR, securely fastened so as to prevent the  
13    same from swinging and placed, whenever reasonably possible, not higher  
14    than forty-eight inches and not lower than twelve inches from the  
15    ground[; provided, however, that in any registration year for which only  
16    one number plate is issued, such number plate shall constitute a set of  
17    number plates for the time in which such use is authorized, shall be  
18    displayed on the rear of the vehicle and none shall be displayed on its  
19    front, except in case of a tractor, when such number plate shall be  
20    displayed on the front of the vehicle and none shall be displayed on its  
21    rear].  
22    S 2. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 404-a of the vehicle and traffic  
23    law, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 191 of the laws of 1991 and  
24    subdivision 3 as added by chapter 601 of the laws of 1987, are amended  
25    to read as follows:  
26    2. Registration of vehicles owned by severely disabled persons. The  
27    commissioner shall assign to such motor vehicles, including any van or

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 pick-up truck used for transporting persons with disabilities which is  
2 not used for commercial purposes, owned by such persons, a distinctive  
3 number and issue and deliver in such manner as the commissioner may  
4 select to the owner a certification of registration, in such form as the  
5 commissioner shall prescribe and two number plates, called disabled  
6 person plates. Said disabled person plates shall conform to the require-  
7 ments of section four hundred one of this [chapter] ARTICLE, but shall  
8 bear distinctive marks to distinguish them from number plates to be  
9 issued to other persons, qualifying under this chapter. [The commission-  
10 er, in his discretion, may issue, for any registration year, only one  
11 plate as a set for a motor vehicle, in which event a set of disabled  
12 person plates for a motor vehicle shall consist of one plate.] Where a  
13 severely disabled person owns more than one vehicle and such vehicle or  
14 vehicles is or are used by severely disabled members of the owner's  
15 family who reside with the owner, the commissioner shall issue one set  
16 of plates for each additional vehicle used by such severely disabled  
17 person, provided that such user qualifies as a severely disabled person  
18 in the manner required by this section.

19 3. Registration of vehicles owned by severely disabled veterans. The  
20 commissioner shall assign to such motor vehicles, including any vans or  
21 pick-up trucks used for transporting handicapped veterans which are not  
22 used for commercial purposes and which are owned by such veterans or a  
23 not-for-profit corporation serving such veterans, a distinctive number  
24 and issue and deliver in such manner as the commissioner may prescribe  
25 to the owner a certification of registration, in such form as the  
26 commissioner shall prescribe and two number plates, called disabled  
27 veteran plates. Said severely disabled veteran plates shall conform to  
28 the requirements of section four hundred one of this [chapter] ARTICLE,  
29 but shall bear distinctive marks to distinguish them from number plates  
30 to be issued to other persons, qualifying under this chapter. [The  
31 commissioner in his discretion, may issue, for any registration year,  
32 only one plate as a set for a motor vehicle, in which event a set of  
33 severely disabled veteran plates for a motor vehicle shall consist of  
34 one plate.] Where a severely disabled veteran owns more than one vehicle  
35 and such vehicle or vehicles is or are used by severely disabled members  
36 of the owner's family who reside with the owner, the commissioner shall  
37 issue one set of plates for each additional vehicle used by such severe-  
38 ly disabled veteran, provided that such user qualifies as a severely  
39 disabled veteran in the manner required by this section. For purposes of  
40 this subdivision, the term "severely disabled veteran" shall mean any  
41 member of the armed forces of the United States who served in time of  
42 war, as defined in section eighty-five of the civil service law, and  
43 whose disability qualifies him as a severely disabled person within the  
44 meaning of such term as defined in subdivision four of this section.

45 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 404-j of the vehicle and traffic law, as  
46 separately amended by chapters 182 and 277 of the laws of 1991, is  
47 amended to read as follows:

48 1. Registration of vehicles owned by veterans who survived the Pearl  
49 Harbor attack. The commissioner shall assign to motor vehicles, owned by  
50 persons who while on military duty serving in the armed forces of the  
51 United States survived the Pearl Harbor attack by Japan on December  
52 seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one or the spouse of such a person, a  
53 distinctive number and issue and deliver in such manner as the commis-  
54 sioner may select to the owner a certification of registration, in such  
55 form as the commissioner shall prescribe and two number plates, called  
56 Pearl Harbor attack veterans plates. Said plates shall conform to the

1 requirements of section four hundred one of this [chapter] ARTICLE, but  
2 shall bear the distinctive words PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR to distinguish  
3 them from number plates to be issued to other persons, qualifying under  
4 this chapter. [The commissioner, in his discretion, may issue, for any  
5 registration year, only one plate as a set for a motor vehicle, in which  
6 event a set of plates for a motor vehicle shall consist of one plate.]  
7 If a distinctive plate set is issued to a Pearl Harbor attack veteran  
8 pursuant to this section, such a distinctive plate set shall not be  
9 issued to the spouse of such veteran.

10 S 4. Subdivision 4 of section 415 of the vehicle and traffic law, as  
11 amended by chapter 7 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

12 4. Number plates. A dealer or other person, qualifying for limited use  
13 of motor vehicles, motorcycles or trailers under subdivisions two and  
14 three of this section, shall be entitled to receive one or more sets of  
15 number plates for display thereon as the commissioner may determine,  
16 upon payment of the required fee for each set. Number plates issued to  
17 dealers under this section shall bear distinctive marks to distinguish  
18 them from transporter plates to be issued to other persons qualifying  
19 under this section. [A set of number plates shall consist of two plates  
20 in the case of a motor vehicle and one plate in the case of a motorcycle  
21 or trailer; provided, however, that the commissioner, in his discretion,  
22 may issue, for any registration year, only one number as a set for a  
23 motor vehicle, in which event a set of number plates for a motor vehicle  
24 shall consist of one plate.]

25 S 5. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section  
26 131-b to read as follows:

27 S 131-B. SET OF NUMBER PLATES OR TWO NUMBER PLATES. SET OF NUMBER  
28 PLATES OR TWO NUMBER PLATES MEANS ONE NUMBER PLATE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH  
29 (A) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER.

30 S 6. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
31 it shall have become a law; provided that the commissioner of motor  
32 vehicles is authorized and directed to promulgate, amend and/or repeal  
33 any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this  
34 act on its effective date on or before such date.