

6319

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

November 30, 2009

Introduced by Sen. THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 S 5. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
28 131-b to read as follows:

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

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