STATE OF NEW YORK

6529

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 25, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to increasing penalties for defaced or obstructed license plates

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 402 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 451 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

(b) (i) Number plates shall be kept clean and in a condition so as to be easily readable and shall not be covered by glass or any plastic material.

(ii) Number plates shall not be knowingly **defaced or** covered or coated with any artificial or synthetic material or substance that conceals or obscures such number plates or that distorts a recorded or photographic image of such number plates.

(iii) The view of such number plates shall not be obstructed by any part of the vehicle or by anything carried thereon, except for a receiver-transmitter issued by a publicly owned tolling facility in connection with electronic toll collection when such receiver-transmitter is affixed to the exterior of a vehicle in accordance with mounting instructions provided by the tolling facility.

§ 2. Subdivision 8 of section 402 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 451 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

8. A violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than two hundred dollars, except that a violation of subparagraph (ii) or subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section shall [~~be punishable by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than three hundred dollars~~] **result in a suspen-**

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

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sion of the registration of such vehicle for one year pursuant to subdivision four-h of section five hundred ten of this chapter.

§ 3. Section 510 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4-h to read as follows:

4-h. Suspension of registration for defaced or obscured number plates. Upon the receipt of a notification from a court or an administrative tribunal that an owner of a motor vehicle has violated subparagraph (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section four hundred two of this chapter, the commissioner or his or her agent shall suspend the registration of the vehicle involved in the violation for a period of one year. Each subsequent violation shall result in an additional one year suspension. During any period of suspension under this subdivision the registered owner of the vehicle shall be prohibited from transferring ownership of such vehicle to any other person and shall also be prohibited from registering any other vehicle.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.