STATE OF NEW YORK

2447

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 20, 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 the penalties for purposefully obstructed license plates

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

Section 1. Subdivision 5-a of section 401 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new paragraph d to read as follows:

d. It shall be unlawful for any person to register, reregister, renew, replace or transfer the registration, change the name, address or other information of the registered owner, or change the registration classification of any vehicle whose vehicle identification number is associated with a vehicle whose registration has been suspended, or is subject to a pending request from a tolling authority to suspend the registration, under paragraph d of subdivision three of section five hundred ten of this chapter and 15 NYCRR 127.14. The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall impose a vehicle identification number block and deny the registration, reregistration, renewal, replacement or transfer of the registration for such vehicle and vehicle identification number until the tolling authority advises, in such form and manner as the commissioner shall prescribe, that notices of violation have been responded to and any unpaid tolls, fees or other charges associated with the vehicle and the vehicle identification number have been paid to the tolling authority. Where an application is denied pursuant to this paragraph, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, deny a registration, reregistration, renewal, replacement or transfer of the registration for any other motor vehicle registered in the name of the applicant where the commissioner has determined that such registrant's intent has been to evade the purposes of this paragraph and where the commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe that such registration, reregistration, renewal, replacement or transfer of registration will

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

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have the effect of defeating the purposes of this paragraph. Such vehicle identification number block and denial shall only remain in effect until the tolling authority advises, in such form and manner as the commissioner shall prescribe, that notices of violation have been responded to and any unpaid tolls, fees or other charges associated with the vehicle and the vehicle identification number have been paid to the tolling authority.

§ 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. A police officer as defined in section one hundred thirty-two of this chapter acting pursuant to this section shall seize and confiscate any covering affixed over the number plates which obscures the ability to easily read such number plates and is made of glass or any plastic material, except that a violation of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars and the owner of the vehicle who such number plates were issued shall have one week from the date such violation is issued to remove any artificial or synthetic material or substance that conceals or obscures such number plates or to purchase new number plates.

§ 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 failure to comply with removing any artificial or synthetic material or substance that conceals or obscures number plates or the purchase of new number plates. Upon the receipt of a notification from a court or an administrative tribunal that an owner of a motor vehicle failed to comply with subdivision eight 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 and such suspension shall remain in effect until such time as the commissioner is advised that the owner of such vehicle has satisfied the requirements of such subdivision.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before such date.