

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 818

Short Title: Reduced Size Plates/Modified Utility Vehicles. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Alexander (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 27, 2022

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO PROVIDE SUITABLY
REDUCED SIZE LICENSE PLATES TO REGISTERED OWNERS AND DEALERS OF
MODIFIED UTILITY VEHICLES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-63 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-63. Registration plates furnished by Division; requirements; replacement of regular plates with First in Flight plates, First in Freedom plates, or National/State Mottos plates; surrender and reissuance; displaying; preservation and cleaning; alteration or concealment of numbers; commission contracts for issuance.

...

(d) Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be attached thereto, one in the front and the other in the rear: Provided, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle other than a truck-tractor, said registration plate shall be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle. The registration plate issued for a truck-tractor shall be attached to the front thereof. Provided further, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle and this motor vehicle is transporting a substance that may adhere to the plate so as to cover or discolor the plate or if the motor vehicle has a mechanical loading device that may damage the plate, the registration plate may be attached to the front of the motor vehicle.

Any motor vehicle of the age of 35 years or more from the date of manufacture may bear the license plates of the year of manufacture instead of the current registration plates, if the current registration plates are maintained within the vehicle and produced upon the request of any person.

The Division shall provide registered owners of ~~motorcycles and modified utility vehicles,~~ motorcycles, and property hauling motorcycle trailers attached to the rear of motorcycles with suitably reduced size registration plates, approximately four by seven inches in size, that are issued on a multiyear basis in accordance with G.S. 20-88(c), or on an annual basis as otherwise provided in this Chapter.

...."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-79 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-79. Dealer license plates.

...

(c) Form and Duration. – A dealer license plate is subject to G.S. 20-63, except for the requirement that the plate display the registration number of a motor vehicle and the requirement that the plate be a "First in Flight" plate, a "First in Freedom" plate, or a "National/State Mottos" plate. A dealer license plate must have a distinguishing symbol identifying the plate as a dealer



1 license plate. The symbol may vary depending upon the classification of dealer license plate
2 issued. The Division must provide suitably reduced sized license plates for modified utility
3 vehicle and motorcycle dealers and manufacturers.

4"

5 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of
6 Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, the sum of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) in
7 nonrecurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to be used to produce the registration plates
8 required by Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

9 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2022. Sections 1 and 2
10 of this act become effective October 1, 2022, and apply to registration plates issued or renewed
11 on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.