

ACT 45

S. B. 410.

A Bill for an Act Relating to Motor Vehicle License Tags and Windshield Emblems.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. This Act is hereby declared to be an urgency measure deemed necessary in the public interest within the meaning of section 11 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The following is a statement of facts constituting such urgency:

The year 1969 has been designated by the lieutenant governor as the year during which the number plates for motor vehicles will be replaced. There is an urgent need to conform to present safety standards by providing for reflectorized license plates, and it is essential that the entire system of issuing plates and providing evidence of the payment of vehicle taxes through tags or emblems be revised at the same time. This bill will greatly increase the efficiency and lower the cost of administration in issuing the annual tags and emblems for vehicle taxes. It is essential that the amendment of section 130-7, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, be passed during 1968 so that the program can be implemented during 1969, the year designated for the changing of our license plates; otherwise the entire program will have to wait several years of its implementation.

SECTION 2. Section 130-7, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 130.7 Number plates. Upon receipt of the tax the treasurer shall number and register the vehicle in the owner's name in a permanent record or book to be kept by him for this purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof with a receipt showing upon its face the license number issued for

the vehicle and the fact that the license tax has been paid thereon for the whole of the remainder of the current year in which the receipt is issued. The treasurer shall also furnish the owner, upon the original registration of the vehicle, two number plates for the vehicle or one plate in the case of trailers, semi-trailers or motorcycles with the registration number marked thereon. The rear number plate shall have impressed thereon the year for which that series of number plates was first issued and during that year the number plates alone shall be evidence of the payment of the license tax. For original registration in subsequent years and upon the payment of the tax for each year subsequent to the year of original registration, a tag or emblem bearing a serial number and with the year of issue marked thereon, or both. Transfer of current number plates, tag or emblem, except as authorized by this chapter or by chapter 160, is declared a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each offense.

Upon an original registration the treasurer shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the administrative cost of furnishing such plate and tag or emblem and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new series of number plates as determined by the lieutenant governor, the treasurer shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing such plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem in subsequent years, the treasurer shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner shall securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on the front and the other on the rear thereof, in such a manner as to prevent the plates from swinging and at a minimum of twelve inches from the ground. Number plates shall at all times be displayed entirely unobscured and be kept reasonably clean. In the case of trailers, semi-trailers or motorcycles, one plate shall be used and it shall be fastened to the rear thereof.

Upon the issuance of the tag or emblem in any year in which the number plates do not evidence the payment of the current year's tax and for each year subsequent to the year of the initial payment of the tax and the original registration of the vehicle, the owner shall affix the tag or emblem to the rear number plate.

After the initial payment of the tax and the original registration of a vehicle as herein specified, a motor vehicle shall not be required to be reweighed in any succeeding year unless it has been so altered or changed as to increase or diminish its weight. No new number plates shall, however, be issued to a new owner except as provided in section 130-8.

Should an owner of a vehicle registered in any county, upon the disposition of the vehicle, request that the license plates be furnished to him with respect to the registration of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle subsequently acquired by him, the assignment may be made by the treasurer at his discretion. To defray additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to such requests, the treasurer shall charge a fee of \$5 for each such reassignment of license plates, in lieu of the fee for registration provided hereinafter.

The procedure for registering the vehicles shall otherwise be identical with that provided by this section.

The treasurer shall, on or before the fifth day of each month, send to the chief of police of the county a list of the numbers issued by him and of changes in ownership recorded by him during the preceding month, together with a general description of the vehicles and the name and address of the owner to whom issued or registered. The chief of police shall retain each such list as a permanent record of his office.”

SECTION 3. Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material or the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved May 8, 1968.)

*Edited accordingly.