

A Bill for an Act Relating to Number Plates.

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

SECTION 1. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**“Sec. 249-7 Number plates.** Upon receipt of the tax the director of finance 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 director of finance 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 286, is declared a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each offense.

Upon an original registration the director of finance 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 director of finance 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 director of finance 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[.], except that all vehicles owned by the State of Hawaii, any county government, any Board of Water Supply, and official representatives of any foreign governments shall be issued registrations which need be renewed only in the new plate issue year.

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 249-8.

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 director of finance at his discretion. To defray additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to such requests, the director of finance 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 director of finance 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 2. New statutory material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the underscoring.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 25, 1980.)