

ACT 319

H.B. NO. 1176

A Bill for an Act Relating to Dealers in New Motor Vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 286-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. Subsection (a) is amended to read:

“(a) A manufacturer or dealer in new motor vehicles having an established place of business, owning any such new vehicles and operating them upon the public highways [exclusively for the purposes of the manufacturer’s or dealer’s business], in lieu of registering each such new vehicle, may make application upon an official [blank] form provided for that purpose to the director of finance for a [general distinguishing] permanent number [or symbol.] plate.”

2. Subsection (b) is amended to read:

“(b) [Upon receipt of the application, the director of finance shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration, containing the latter’s name and business address, and the general distinguishing number or symbol assigned to the applicant in such form and containing such further information as the director of finance may determine, and every new vehicle owned or controlled by the manufacturer or dealer, and permitted to be registered under a general distinguishing number, while being operated for the purposes of the manufacturer’s or dealer’s business only, shall be regarded as registered thereunder until the vehicle is sold and the sale has been recorded by the director of finance.] Every new vehicle owned or controlled by the manufacturer or dealer, and permitted to be registered under a permanent number plate shall be regarded as registered thereunder until the vehicle is sold and the sale has been recorded by the director of finance.”

3. Subsection (c) is amended to read:

“(c) The director of finance shall [also], upon receipt of the application, or thereafter, furnish to the manufacturer or dealer:

- (1) Permanent number plates which shall be attached to new motor vehicles which are used by the applicant only for demonstration of the new motor vehicles to customers upon the public highways if requested by the applicant. The price of each permanent number plate shall be established by the director of finance under chapter 91. Each permanent number plate shall display

upon it the [registration] number which is assigned to the applicant and a different letter or [symbol] number to differentiate it from other plates furnished to the applicant. Permanent number plates which are detached from a new motor vehicle which has been sold may be used on another new motor vehicle; and

- (2) Temporary motor vehicle plates, if the applicant is a new motor vehicle dealer, which plates shall be blank except for an area on the lower right corner which shall be utilized for validation of the temporary plates. The validation shall not be reproducible by any person other than the director of finance, or director of finance of another county if an agreement is made to utilize a uniform validation, shall signify the official status of the temporary number plate, and be designed to be [visible] visible from a distance of two feet.

The directors of finance of any two or more counties may agree to utilize a uniform designation to be placed upon the temporary number plate. The director of finance shall establish the material used for the temporary number plate and a charge by rule under chapter 91 for each temporary number plate."

4. Subsection (i) is amended to read:

"(i) For the purposes of this section:

- (1) "New motor vehicles" means motor vehicles of the current model year, immediate past model year, or the next model year which have not been sold or registered by the manufacturer or dealer;
- [(1)] (2) "New motor vehicle dealer" means a dealer licensed under chapter 437 to engage in the business of selling at wholesale or retail or both, new motor vehicles or used motor vehicles;
- [(2)] (3) "Permanent number plate" means a number plate furnished to a manufacturer or dealer under subsection (c)(1) for a motor vehicle which is similar to the number plate issued under section 249-7 and which allows the motor vehicle to be operated on the public highways; and
- [(3)] (4) "Temporary number plate" means the number plate furnished to a new motor vehicle dealer under subsection (c)(2)."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved June 26, 1987.)