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SENATE BILL 777

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Lidio G. Rainaldi

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION PLATES  
AND VALIDATING STICKERS FOR THE FRONT AND REAR OF VEHICLES;  
PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROHIBITING CERTAIN PLATE DISPLAYS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 66-1-4.15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,  
Chapter 120, Section 16, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.15. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle  
Code:

A. "railroad" means a carrier of persons or  
property upon cars operated upon stationary rails;

B. "railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal  
or device erected by authority of a public body or official or  
by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of  
railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train;

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1 C. "railroad train" means a steam engine, electric  
2 or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated  
3 upon rails;

4 D. "reconstructed vehicle" means any vehicle  
5 assembled or constructed largely by means of essential parts,  
6 new or used, derived from other vehicles or which, if  
7 originally otherwise assembled or constructed, has been  
8 materially altered by the removal of essential parts, new or  
9 used;

10 E. "recreational travel trailer" means a camping  
11 body designed to be drawn by another vehicle;

12 F. "recreational vehicle" means a vehicle with a  
13 camping body that has its own motive power, is affixed to or is  
14 drawn by another vehicle and includes motor homes, travel  
15 trailers and truck campers;

16 G. "registration" means registration certificates  
17 and registration plates issued under the laws of New Mexico  
18 pertaining to the registration of vehicles;

19 H. "registration number" means the number assigned  
20 upon registration by the division to the owner of a vehicle or  
21 motor vehicle required to be registered by the Motor Vehicle  
22 Code;

23 I. "registration plate" means the [~~plate, marker,~~  
24 ~~sticker~~] two identical plates or validating stickers issued  
25 pursuant to Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 or the marker or tag

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1 assigned by the division for the identification of a registered  
2 vehicle, except that for the purposes of Sections 66-3-1,  
3 66-3-1.3, 66-3-2.2, 66-3-2.11, 66-3-24, 66-3-27, 66-3-805 and  
4 66-6-3 NMSA 1978 and Chapter 66, Article 8 NMSA 1978,  
5 "registration plate" means any plate or validating sticker  
6 issued pursuant to Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 or the marker or  
7 tag assigned by the division for the identification of the  
8 registered vehicle;

9 J. "residence district" means the territory  
10 contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business  
11 district when the property on the highway for a distance of  
12 three hundred feet or more is in the main improved with  
13 residences or residences and buildings in use for business;

14 K. "revocation" means that the driver's license and  
15 privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are  
16 terminated and shall not be renewed or restored, except that an  
17 application for a new license may be presented and acted upon  
18 by the division after the expiration of at least one year after  
19 date of revocation;

20 L. "right of way" means the privilege of the  
21 immediate use of the roadway;

22 M. "road tractor" means every motor vehicle  
23 designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not so  
24 constructed as to carry any significant load thereon, either  
25 independently or as any part of the weight of a vehicle or load

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1 so drawn; and

2 N. "roadway" means that portion of a street or  
3 highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular  
4 travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder, and in the event a  
5 highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term  
6 "roadway" refers to any such roadway separately but not to all  
7 such roadways collectively."

8 Section 2. Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
9 Chapter 35, Section 34, as amended) is amended to read:

10 "66-3-14. REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATING STICKERS TO  
11 BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT--REFLECTIVE MATERIAL.--

12 A. The department upon registering a vehicle shall  
13 issue [~~a~~] two identical registration [~~plate~~] plates or [~~a~~]  
14 validating [~~sticker~~] stickers to the owner of the vehicle,  
15 except that for the purposes of Sections 66-3-1, 66-3-1.3,  
16 66-3-2.2, 66-3-2.11, 66-3-24, 66-3-27, 66-3-805 and 66-6-3 NMSA  
17 1978, the department shall issue a single registration plate or  
18 validating sticker to the owner of the vehicle. [~~The~~]  
19 Validating [~~sticker~~] stickers may be designed and required to  
20 be placed on [~~the~~] registration [~~plate~~] plates or elsewhere on  
21 [~~the vehicle~~] vehicles as prescribed by the department.

22 B. Each registration plate shall have a background  
23 of reflective material such that the registration number  
24 assigned to the vehicle is plainly legible from a distance of  
25 one hundred feet at night. The colors shall include those of

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1 the state flag, except prestige and special plates.

2 C. Each registration plate shall have displayed  
3 upon it:

4 (1) the registration number assigned to the  
5 person to whom it was issued; and

6 (2) the name of this state.

7 D. The department shall issue no registration  
8 plates for privately owned vehicles that contain the words  
9 "staff officer" or any other title except as otherwise provided  
10 by law.

11 E. All registration plates for private vehicles  
12 shall be alike in form except for the owner's registration  
13 number and except for special registration plates.

14 F. The department shall adopt registration number  
15 systems for registration plates.

16 [~~F.~~] G. In lieu of or in addition to [~~a~~]  
17 registration [~~plate~~] plates or [~~sticker~~] validating stickers  
18 for commercial motor vehicles, the department may issue an  
19 electronic identifying device."

20 Section 3. Section 66-3-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
21 Chapter 35, Section 38, as amended) is amended to read:

22 "66-3-18. DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION PLATES AND TEMPORARY  
23 PERMITS AND PLATES--DISPLAYS PROHIBITED AND ALLOWED.--

24 A. [~~The~~] One of the two identical registration  
25 [~~plate~~] plates issued pursuant to Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978

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1 shall be attached to the front and the other, together with the  
2 single plate or sticker issued pursuant to Section 66-3-14 NMSA  
3 1978 for the purposes of Sections 66-3-1, 66-3-1.3, 66-3-2.2,  
4 66-3-2.11, 66-3-24, 66-3-27, 66-3-805 and 66-6-3 NMSA 1978,  
5 shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle for which [it is]  
6 they are issued. [however, the registration plate shall be  
7 attached to the front of a road tractor or truck tractor. The]  
8 A registration plate shall be securely fastened at all times in  
9 a fixed horizontal position at a height of not less than twelve  
10 inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the plate.  
11 It shall be in a place and position so as to be clearly  
12 visible, and it shall be maintained free from foreign material  
13 and in a condition to be clearly legible.

14 B. Temporary demonstration plates and temporary  
15 permits shall be firmly affixed to the inside left rear window  
16 of the vehicle to which it is issued, unless such display  
17 presents a safety hazard or the temporary permit is not visible  
18 or readable from that position, in which case, the temporary  
19 permit shall be displayed in such a manner that it is clearly  
20 visible from the rear or left side of the vehicle.

21 C. No vehicle while being operated on the highways  
22 of this state shall have displayed either on the front or the  
23 rear of the vehicle any registration plate, including tab or  
24 sticker, other than one issued or validated for the current  
25 registration period by the department or any other licensing

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1 authority having jurisdiction over the vehicle. [~~No expired~~  
2 ~~registration plate, tab or sticker shall be displayed on the~~  
3 ~~vehicle other than an expired special registration plate, which~~  
4 ~~may be exhibited on the front of the vehicle.~~

5 ~~D. Nothing contained in this section shall be~~  
6 ~~construed as prohibiting the use of a promotional or~~  
7 ~~advertising plate on the front of the vehicle.]"~~

8 Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2007.

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