REGULAR CALENDAR

January 31, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 388-FN,

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Daniel Veilleux

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Transportation**
Bill Number:	**HB 388-FN**
Title:	**relative to number plates for motor vehicles.**
Date:	**January 31, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

All law enforcement agencies and administrative departments opposed this bill. The testimony stated that not having a front license plate complicates toll collections and makes vehicle identification in police enforcement more difficult, especially in cases where the rear plate is obscured by bike racks, equipment, trailers, etc. Tolls involving vehicles hauling trailers are particularly difficult as tolls can only be billed to the owner of the vehicle hauling the trailers. When the rear plate is obscured, toll revenue is lost from the hauling vehicle as well as the additional toll for the trailer.

Vote 11-9.

Rep. Daniel Veilleux
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Transportation

HB 388-FN, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Daniel Veilleux for the **Majority** of Transportation. All law enforcement agencies and administrative departments opposed this bill. The testimony stated that not having a front license plate complicates toll collections and makes vehicle identification in police enforcement more difficult, especially in cases where the rear plate is obscured by bike racks, equipment, trailers, etc. Tolls involving vehicles hauling trailers are particularly difficult as tolls can only be billed to the owner of the vehicle hauling the trailers. When the rear plate is obscured, toll revenue is lost from the hauling vehicle as well as the additional toll for the trailer. **Vote 11-9.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

January 31, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 388-FN,

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Charlie St. Clair

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Transportation**
Bill Number:	**HB 388-FN**
Title:	**relative to number plates for motor vehicles.**
Date:	**January 31, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would remove the requirement that non-commercial vehicles display a front license plate. This is already allowed in New Hampshire on a limited basis. When towns have milestone anniversaries, the front plate may be removed and replaced with a commemorative plate and may stay on for a year. The committee was presented with concerns from law enforcement regarding easily identifying vehicles but cited no data from the 21 states which do not require front plates, including Vermont. The fiscal note on the bill assumes that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would sell fewer license plates. The bill makes no such change. It simply removes the requirement that the front plate be attached to the vehicle. Additionally, some specialty and newer cars do not have a front plate bracket. To attach a front plate, dealers or owners destroy the front fascia of the car by drilling into it. This devalues the car unnecessarily.

Rep. Charlie St. Clair
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Transportation

HB 388-FN, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Charlie St. Clair for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill would remove the requirement that non-commercial vehicles display a front license plate. This is already allowed in New Hampshire on a limited basis. When towns have milestone anniversaries, the front plate may be removed and replaced with a commemorative plate and may stay on for a year. The committee was presented with concerns from law enforcement regarding easily identifying vehicles but cited no data from the 21 states which do not require front plates, including Vermont. The fiscal note on the bill assumes that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would sell fewer license plates. The bill makes no such change. It simply removes the requirement that the front plate be attached to the vehicle. Additionally, some specialty and newer cars do not have a front plate bracket. To attach a front plate, dealers or owners destroy the front fascia of the car by drilling into it. This devalues the car unnecessarily.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 388-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

DATE: January 31, 2023

LOB ROOM: 203

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. S. Smith | Seconded by Rep. Hill | Vote: 9-11

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Sykes | Seconded by Rep. Jones | Vote: 11-9

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Karel Crawford, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # 388-FN

BILL TITLE: ...relative to number plates for motor vehicles

DATE: 1/31/23

LOB ROOM: 201-203

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☒ OTP ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Smith Seconded by Rep. Hill Vote: 9-11

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☒ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Sykes Seconded by Rep. Jones Vote: 11-9

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)

☐ Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ____ **YES** ____ **NO**

Minority Report? X Yes ____ No If yes, author, Rep: Sheehan Motion Rep Veilleux

Majority X yes.

Respectfully submitted: Karl Crawford

Rep. Crawford, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/6/2023 12:39:16 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Transportation

Bill #: HB-388FN Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/31/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman		✓	
Gorski, Ted Vice Chairman	✓		
Smith, Steven D.		✓	
Crawford, Karel A. Clerk	✓		
Hill, Gregory G.		✓	
Dumais, Russell	✓		
~~O'Hara, Travis J.~~ Rep. Melvin		✓	
~~Foote, Charles H~~ Rep. Spillane		✓	
See, Alvin B		✓	
Sellers, John		✓	
Sykes, George E.	✓		
~~Rich, Cecilia~~ Rep. Schulty	✓		
St. Clair, Charlie G.		✓	
Fox, Dru	✓		
Rombeau, Catherine	✓		
Veilleux, Daniel T.	✓		
Coker, Matthew		✓	
Jones, Philip M	✓		
~~Rich, Jeffrey~~ Rep. Schuett	✓		
Staub, Kathy	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	11	9	

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/6/2023 12:39:16 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Transportation

Bill #: HB-388-FN Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 1/31/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman	✓		
Gorski, Ted Vice Chairman		✓	
Smith, Steven D.	✓		
Crawford, Karel A. Clerk		✓	
Hill, Gregory G.	✓		
Dumais, Russell		✓	
O'~~Hara, Travis~~ J. Rep. Melvin	✓		
~~Foote, Charles~~ H Rep. Spillane	✓		
See, Alvin B	✓		
Sellers, John	✓		
Sykes, George E.		✓	
~~Rich, Cecilia~~ Rep. Schultz		✓	
St. Clair, Charlie G.	✓		
Fox, Dru		✓	
Rombeau, Catherine		✓	
Veilleux, Daniel T.		✓	
Coker, Matthew	✓		
Jones, Philip M		✓	
~~Rich, Jeffrey~~ Rep Schuett		✓	
Staub, Kathy		✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	9	11	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL TITLE: HB-388-FN relative to number plates for motor vehicles

DATE: 1/24/23

LOB ROOM: 201-203 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 1:53 pm**

Time Adjourned: 2:12 pm

<u>Committee Members</u>: Rep. Walsh, Gorski, Crawford, Smith, Hill, Dumais, O'Hara, Foote, See, Sellers, Sykes, C.Rich, St.Clair, Fox, Rombeau, Veilleux, Coker, Jones, J.Rich, Staub

<u>Bill Sponsors</u>: Rep. Hynes

TESTIMONY

- Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Hynes -
Relative to number plates for motor vehicle. The cost would be $8.00
Some cars do not have a front plate brackets, I have a Tesler and it does not have a bracket, they say it is a environmental issue, more gas mileage without a plate

Q: Rep. St.Clair – How many states do not require a front plate?
A: 20
Q: Rep. See – The cover over the plate how it might relate to the bill?
A: The plate must be clean and available to read
Q: Rep. Staub – How about E-pass?
A: I think they only read rear plate.

Rep. Michael Granger – Supports
Limit rule making for civilians who are not elected.

John Corcoran DOT – Opposed
Toll system would not be able to capture the plate – revenue all goes back into the DOT – 13,500,000 53% from the front license plate. Would be a large revenue loss. Many times they are blocked by bike holders, dirt, and etc. loss toll revenue. 36 lanes do not have rear cameras, cost the DOT $400,000.

Q: Rep. St. Clair –There are attendance where there is no rear cameras?
A: Yes they are.
Q: Rep. Coker – Do you have an estimate on how much you could loose?
A: 50% we use the front plate.
Q: Do you lose 50% of the revenue?
Q: Rep. See – Plastic covers, does that interfere?
A: Yes they do.
Q: Rep. Sykes – Do we have available a list of the states that have only rear plates?
A: Penn. Is loosing money they have said 18 states, not sure.

***John Drury – NH Chiefs of Police – Opposed**

Lt. O'Leary NHSP – Opposed
Plate readers come into play with front plates, lack of front plate has an impact on locating vehicles that have committed a crime.

Q: Rep. St.Clair – Do you have any idea how any states have one plate?
A: 21 states have one plate, MA moved from single to two plates.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Karel Crawford, Clerk

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill #: HB388-FN Date: 1/24/23

Committee: Transportation

**** Please Print All Information ****

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	Pro	Con
TOM PARSOL		NH POLICE ASSN			X
Michael Granger			Strafford 2	X	
John Corcoran		NHDOT			X
JR Hoell			Merr 27	X	

House Remote Testify

Transportation Committee Testify List for Bill HB388 on 2023-01-24

Support: 6 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Berrio, Simon	Holderness, NH quahog319@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2023 1:52 PM
Creem, Jeffrey	Nashua, NH jeff@thecreems.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2023 10:24 PM
Medeiros, Jesse	Plainfield, NH bgtrck458@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2023 11:19 AM
Karney, Stephen	Amherst, NH stephenakarney@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2023 1:05 PM
Zemanek, Steve	Manchester, NH Steve@Zemanek.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 9:53 AM
Alleman, Bill	Weare, NH gencourt@allemanse.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2023 1:58 PM

Out of state vehicles operating in NH already have this freedom. Many vehicles have no mounts for a front plate and adding one has a minor but cumulative impact on fuel efficiency.

HB 388

Testimony

House Transportation Committee

January 24, 2023

HB 388-FN – Relative to number plates for motor vehicles

HB 393-FN – Permitting a motor vehicle operator to use only a rear license plate

Dear Chairman Walsh and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Drury, and I am the retired Police Chief of Farmington, New Hampshire. I served 23 years in law enforcement.

I am here to testify in **opposition** to HB 388-FN - Relative to number plates for motor vehicles and HB 393 on behalf of myself and the NH Association of Chiefs of Police.

Thank you for allowing me to address these bills. As a car guy I dislike the front plate; as a police officer and a former member of the Regional Accident Reconstruction Team, I MUST admit that I love them. Over the years the front plate made my job much easier. Routes 11, 75 and 153 are Main State Roads that run through Farmington. When a neighboring Police Department issues a BOLO (Be on the Lookout), we head out onto the roads and try to find the car. If we were to be looking for a red Toyota Prius with only rear plates on it, it would be difficult to find as we would have to position ourselves in a location to try and observe these as most rear plates are recessed under the trunk lid or a hatch or a space in the rear bumper or we just spin around and try and get behind the car to read the plate. Imagine trying to do this during rush hour with a long line of traffic all going 50 MPH or more. Watching a car pass you and then see the plate get smaller and smaller. With the State now issuing 7-digit plates, this can be very challenging.

New Hampshire plates are reflective and stand out very well. They are easy to read day or night. Many times, during a collision, the front plate gets left behind at a scene or it gets imprinted into the other vehicle like a stamp. We have solved many hit and runs this way when we could read this or find the plate. This can also happen in low speed crashes. I personally witnessed one at about 15 MPH.

A car that is involved in a robbery often pulls into the business and with that video equipment we can read the plate and get a good description of the car. Banks do a great job at capturing the front plate and the driver, not so much the rear of the car. If a vehicle has a trailer on it,

forget about getting rear plate information especially at the tolls. This would cost the State a lot of money in lost toll revenues.

Aerodynamics: I spoke to a mechanical engineer who worked part time for me, and he is also a member of the Strafford County Accident Reconstruction Team.

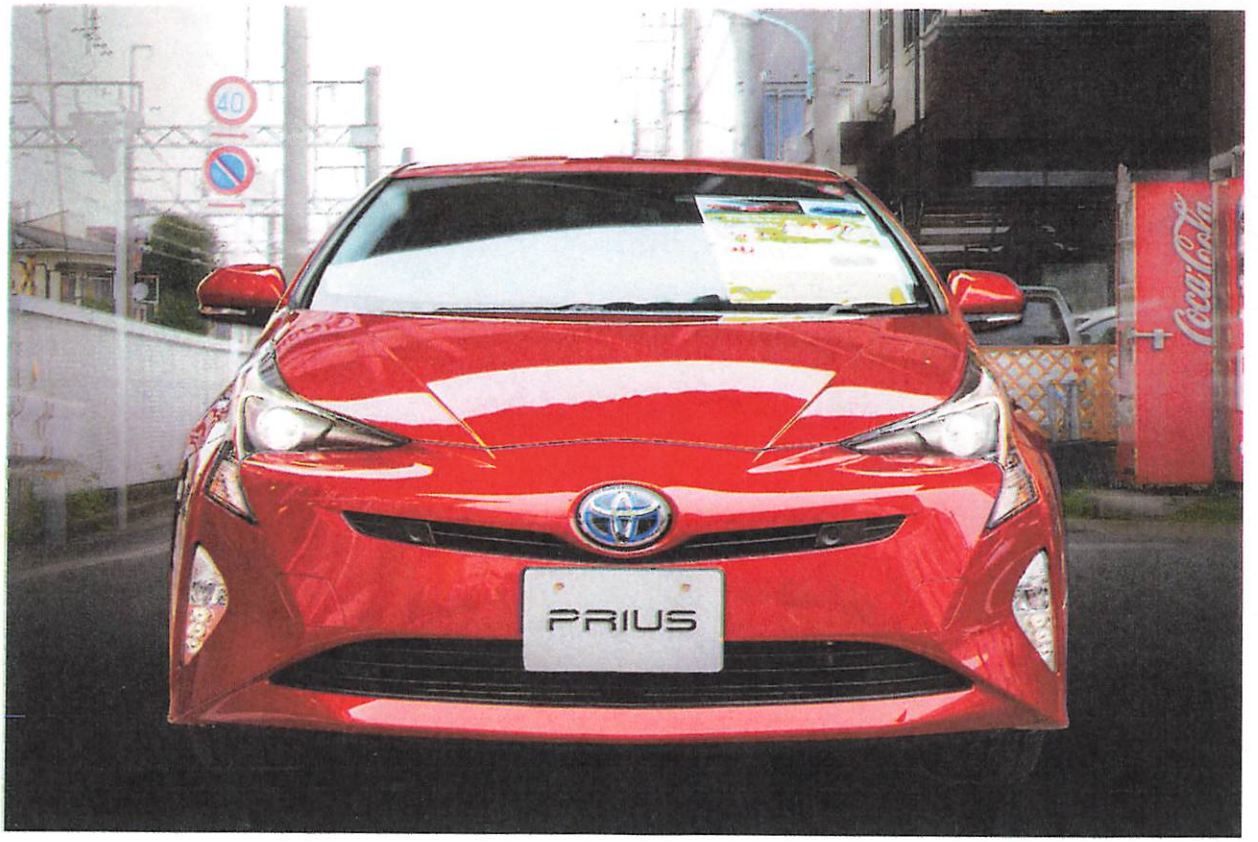
The wind drag is a function of the square feet of surface area that the frontal aspect of a car presents to the air driving through it. Unless removing the plate actually shrinks the profile of a car like hacking off a side mirror (and it won't if it's mounted on a bumper ahead of the radiator or engine), it won't change the wind resistance in a measurable fashion. The change would be much smaller than having a tire underinflated by 5 psi, which itself usually goes unnoticed. For example, a Toyota Prius has a frontal area of about 24 square feet. Since the front plate is completely in front of all of the other parts of the car which will be impeding wind flow (even though perhaps a few inches behind the plate location in some parts), removing the plate won't change the drag force or the efficiency. Remember, you have all the rest of the car behind the plate; bumper, radiator, engine and fire wall. There is now an after-market product that attaches to the tow hook of the vehicle preventing damage to the bumper of a car.

Putting a decal on the vehicle instead of the front plate, in my opinion, will not work as we will not see it at night. Police will now have another thing to watch for as a car passes us at the speed limit of the roadway, not to mention the inspection stickers and registration decals.

In closing, I must **oppose** this bill because the safety of the public outweighs my car guy vanity. I respectfully ask that you find these bills Inexpedient to Legislate.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

John Drury
Retired Chief of Police


40
PRIUS
Coca-Cola


UNIVERSAL
LICENSE PLAT
RELOCATOR K
JUEGO UNIVERSAL PARA REUBICAR
LA BASE DEL PORTA PLACAS

RUCTIONS:
ES DE INSTALACIÓN:



ORRECT SPACERS
eparadores correctos

FEATURES:
CARACTERISTICAS:

- Adjustable depth and angle.
- Universal fit – works with most tow hook mounts.
- No need to drill holes into factory bumper.
- Relocates front plate out of the way of radiator and intercooler.
- Profundidad y ángulo ajustable.
- Ajuste universal, trabaja con la mayoría de ganchos para remolque.
- No se necesita agujerar la defensa de fábrica.
- Reubique la base del porta placas delantero lejos de radiadores y enfriadores.

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE:
INCLUIDO EN EL PAQUETE:

1. License Plate Holder
2. Rod Inserts
3. Angle Adjuster

1. Soporte para la placa
2. Varillas para insertar
3. Ajustador de ángulo

LIFT HERE
LEVANTE AQUI

New Hampshire
Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

News Release

For Immediate Release
Januaary 24, 2022

Contact:
Jesse O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
jesse.oneill@doj.nh.gov | (603) 931-0953

Shaylen Roberts, Assistant County Attorney
sroberts@hcnh.org | (603) 627-5605

Update on the Investigation into the Disappearance of Harmony Montgomery, and Request for Assistance

Concord, NH – Attorney General John M. Formella, Hillsborough County Attorney John Coughlin, and Manchester Police Chief Allen D. Aldenberg provide the following update on the investigation into the disappearance of Harmony Montgomery.

The investigation to-date has narrowed the window of Harmony's disappearance to approximately November 28–December 10, 2019. According to information learned by police, Adam and Kayla Montgomery, together with their two common children and Adam's daughter Harmony, were evicted from 77 Gilford Street in Manchester on November 27, 2019. Multiple individuals have reported seeing Harmony with Adam and Kayla in the following days; however, by approximately December 6–10, 2019, Adam and Kayla apparently had only their two common children, and Harmony was no longer with them.

This information leads police to believe that it was sometime during this window of approximately November 28–December 10, 2019, that Harmony Montgomery disappeared. Witnesses have reported that during that time, Adam, Kayla, and the children were homeless and living out of cars, possibly in the North End of Manchester. One of the cars was a silver 2010 Chrysler Sebring, and the other was a dark blue 2006 Audi S4. Stock photos of these cars are attached to this release for reference; the actual condition of the cars in 2019 was worse than depicted in these photos. In addition, the Sebring's rear license plate was askew.

Manchester Police continue to request that anyone with information please call or text the 24- hour tip line dedicated to Harmony's rescue at 603-203-6060, in particular anyone who saw or interacted with Adam Montgomery, Kayla Montgomery, or the children during the time frame of approximately November 28–December 10, 2019, or who saw either of the vehicles in question during that time. Any information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, may contribute to the overall investigation.

HB 388-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0602
02/04

HOUSE BILL ***388-FN***

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

SPONSORS: Rep. Hynes, Hills. 2; Rep. Prout, Hills. 13; Rep. Phinney, Straf. 9; Rep. Granger, Straf. 2

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill would require private passenger vehicles to display only one number plate on the rear of the vehicle.

- -

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 388-FN - AS INTRODUCED

23-0602
02/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Number Plates. Amend RSA 261:75, II to read as follows:

II. Every vehicle driven in or on any way in this state, if required to be registered hereunder, shall have displayed conspicuously thereon a number plate or plates to be furnished by the department, together with any current validation sticker issued by the department and which has a changeable designation of their effective period. The director may make special rules relative to the number of plates, the location of said plate or plates on the vehicle, and the material and design thereof, provided, however, that number plates for passenger vehicles shall have the state motto "Live Free or Die" written thereon***, and further provided that a private passenger vehicle shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle***. The plate shall be kept clean.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA
23-0602
12/19/22

HB 388-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local [ ] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Appropriation	$0	$0	$0	$0
Revenue	$0	($700,000) Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund	($700,000) Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund	($700,000 Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund)
Expenditures	$0	$96,000 Cost of Collections/Admin ($700,000) Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund	($700,000) Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund	($700,000) Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund
Funding Source:	[X] General [ ] Education [X] Highway [X] Other - Reflectorized Plate Inventory Fund and Restricted Cost of Collection/Administration*			

*Pursuant to Part II, article 6-a of the New Hampshire constitution, any costs associated with the collection and administration of Highway Funds by the Department of Safety shall be deducted by the Department before such funds are credited to the Highway Fund as unrestricted revenue.

METHODOLOGY:

This bill would require private passenger vehicles to display only one number plate (on the rear of the vehicle). Private passenger vehicle is defined in RSA 259:81 as a motor vehicle, except motorcycles, tractors, snowmobiles, OHRV's and mopeds, which is designed and used for the purpose of transporting 10 persons or less and used for the transportation of human beings with their necessary personal belongings, and not exceeding 8,000 pounds in gross vehicle weight (which make up most of the vehicles on roadways). During FY 2022, approximately 175,000 sets of passenger plates were processed through the Department of Safety's warehouse, with the cost per plate being $4. Beginning in FY 2024, assuming individuals choose to only equip one plate, both revenues and expenditures of the reflectorized plate inventory fund will decrease by approximately $700,000 ($4 x 175,000 plates) per year. In addition, the Department estimates one-time software change costs relative to implementation of this bill will be approximately $96,000 in FY 2024 (this would be an administrative charge against highway revenue collections).

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety