

HB 1176-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2473
06/05

HOUSE BILL ***1176-FN***

AN ACT relative to the display of license plates on vehicles.

SPONSORS: Rep. Notter, Hills. 12; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Labrie, Hills. 2; Rep. Aures, Merr. 13; Rep. Aldrich, Belk. 6; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the requirement that a motor vehicle display a front license plate.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to the display of license plates on vehicles.

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

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

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

9 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1176-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the display of license plates on vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$646,667 Decrease	\$776,000 Decrease	\$776,000 Decrease
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Reflectorized Plate Fund (RSA 228:25)			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$565,833 Decrease	\$679,000 Decrease	\$679,000 Decrease
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Reflectorized Plate Fund (RSA 228:25)			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill removes the requirement that a motor vehicle display a front license plate. Based on information provided by the Department of Safety, approximately 194,000 vehicles were registered with new plate types in calendar year 2024. The Department states the cost to produce a single plate is approximately \$3.50, with the current statutory fee set at \$4 per plate. Therefore, annually this bill could reduce state expenditures and revenue by \$679,000 (\$3.50 x 194,000 plates) and \$776,000 (\$4 x 194,000 plates), respectively. Assuming an effective date of September 1, 2026, those amounts would be reduced in FY 2027 to approximately \$565,833 and \$646,667, respectively. It should be noted that motor vehicle registration and licensing legislation is typically effective to begin a calendar year (January 1).

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety