

# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 5, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Majority of the Committee on Transportation to  
which was referred HB 260-FN,**

**AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the  
following amendment, and the recommendation that  
the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

**Rep. Judy Aron**

**FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MAJORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Transportation</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 260-FN</b>
Title:	<b>relative to number plates for motor vehicles.</b>
Date:	<b>February 5, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2021-0208h</b>

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The amendment, which replaces the original bill, updates the current statute (RSA:261:75 II) to require that antique, custom, and street rod vehicles, as defined in our statutes, be allowed to display only one rear license plate. Current plate requirements will remain in effect for all other vehicles. This change is a compromise for those automobile owners who have expressed the problem two plates pose with regard to esthetics, investment value, and technical issues for their vintage or special vehicle(s). There is minimal impact on tolling revenue for New Hampshire.

Vote 10-9.

Rep. Judy Aron  
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Transportation

**HB 260-FN**, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Judy Aron for the **Majority** of Transportation. The amendment which replaces the original bill updates the current statute (RSA:261:75 II) to require that antique, custom, and street rod vehicles, as defined in our statutes, be allowed to display only 1 rear license plate. Current plate requirements will remain in effect for all other vehicles. This change is a compromise for those automobile owners who have expressed the problem 2 plates pose with regard to esthetics, investment value, and technical issues for their vintage or special vehicle(s). There is minimal impact on tolling revenue for the State of New Hampshire. **Vote 10-9.**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 5, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Minority of the Committee on Transportation to  
which was referred HB 260-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 following resolution:**

**RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. George Sykes**

**FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MINORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Transportation</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 260-FN</b>
Title:	<b>relative to number plates for motor vehicles.</b>
Date:	<b>February 5, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE</b>

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The concern is that multiple state agencies, including the Department Of Safety, the Highway Safety Bureau, the NH Police Chief's Association, the NH Department Of Transportation, and the NH Division of Motor Vehicles all testified in opposition to the original bill and did not update their testimony based upon this amendment. Further, we received no testimony as to the new fiscal impact, no testimony on how many vehicles are involved, and how this change would affect public safety agencies being able to identify vehicles for an AMBER Alert.

Rep. George Sykes  
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Transportation

**HB 260-FN**, relative to number plates for motor vehicles. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. George Sykes for the **Minority** of Transportation. The concern is that multiple state agencies, including the Dept. Of Safety, the Highway Safety Bureau, the NH Police Chiefs Association, the NH Dept. Of Transportation, and the NH Division of Motor Vehicles all testified in opposition to the original bill and did not update their testimony based upon this amendment. Further, we received no testimony as to the new fiscal impact, no testimony on how many vehicles are involved, and how this change would affect public safety agencies being able to identify vehicles for an Amber alert.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Amendment to HB 260-FN

1 Amend RSA 261:75, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 II. Every vehicle driven in or on any way in this state, if required to be registered hereunder,  
4 shall have displayed conspicuously thereon a number plate or plates to be furnished by the  
5 department, together with any current validation sticker issued by the department and which has a  
6 changeable designation of their effective period. The director may make special rules relative to the  
7 number of plates, the location of said plate or plates on the vehicle, and the material and design  
8 thereof, provided, however, that number plates for passenger vehicles shall have the state motto  
9 "Live Free or Die" written thereon, ***and further provided that an antique vehicle, as defined in***  
10 ***RSA 259:4, a custom vehicle, as defined in RSA 259:17-a, or a street rod, as defined in RSA***  
11 ***259:106-a, shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle.*** The  
12 plate shall be kept clean.



**Amendment to HB 260-FN**  
**- Page 2 -**

2021-0208h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that certain vehicles shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle.

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on

BILL TITLE: 260-FN relative to number plates for motor vehicles

DATE: 2/5/21

LOB ROOM: 301-303

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # 0208H \_\_\_\_  
*(if offered)*
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Aron                      Seconded by Rep. O'Hara                      Vote: 11-8 \_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_  
*(if offered)*
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Aron                      Seconded by Rep. O'Hara                      Vote: 10-9 \_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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: Sykes                      Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: Karel A. Crawford  
Rep Karel Crawford, Clerk



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/22/2021 10:08:26 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

**2021 SESSION**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Bill #:** 260-FN      **Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_      **AM #:** 0208H      **Exec Session Date:** 2/5/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman	X		
Gagne, Larry G. Vice Chairman	X		
Crawford, Karel A. Clerk	X		
Smith, Steven D.	X		
Hill, Gregory G.	X		
Aron, Judy F.	X		
Ankarberg, Aidan	X		
Gorski, Ted	X		
O'Hara, Travis J.	X		
Pitaro, Matthew	X		
Sykes, George E.		X	
Cleaver, Skip J.	X		
<del>Fenton, Donovan W.</del> Rep. Pimentel		X	
Pickering, Daniel R.		X	
Rich, Cecilia		X	
Telerski, Laura D.		X	
Fox, Dru		X	
Stevens, Deb		X	
Veilleux, Daniel T.		X	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	11	8	

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK**



1/22/2021 10:08:26 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

**2021 SESSION**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Bill #:** 260-FN      **Motion:** OTP      **AM #:** 0208H      **Exec Session Date:** 2/5/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman	X		
Gagne, Larry G. Vice Chairman	X		
Crawford, Karel A. Clerk	X		
Smith, Steven D.	X		
Hill, Gregory G.	X		
Aron, Judy F.	X		
Ankarberg, Aidan	X		
Gorski, Ted	X		
O'Hara, Travis J.	X		
Pitaro, Matthew	X		
Sykes, George E.		X	
Cleaver, Skip J.		X	
<del>Fenton, Donovan W.</del> Rep. Pimentel		X	
Pickering, Daniel R.		X	
Rich, Cecilia		X	
Telerski, Laura D.		X	
Fox, Dru		X	
Stevens, Deb		X	
Veilleux, Daniel T.		X	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	10	9	

Amendment to HB 260-FN

1 Amend RSA 261:75, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 II. Every vehicle driven in or on any way in this state, if required to be registered hereunder,  
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6 changeable designation of their effective period. The director may make special rules relative to the  
7 number of plates, the location of said plate or plates on the vehicle, and the material and design  
8 thereof, provided, however, that number plates for passenger vehicles shall have the state motto  
9 "Live Free or Die" written thereon, **and further provided that an antique vehicle, as defined in**  
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11 **259:106-a, shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle.** The  
12 plate shall be kept clean.

UNAPPROVED

2021-0208h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that certain vehicles shall only be required to display one number plate on the rear of the vehicle.

UNAPPROVED



# Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON

**BILL TITLE: 260-FN relative to number plates for motor vehicles**

**DATE: 1/29/21**

**LOB ROOM: 301-303**

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 3:01pm**

**Time Adjourned: 3:50 pm**

**Committee Members: Reps. Walsh, Gagne, Crawford, **Smith**, Hill, Aron, Ankarberg, Gorski, O'Hara, Pitaro, Sykes, Cleaver, Fenton, Pickering, Rich, Telerski, Fox, Stevens and Veilleux**

**Bill Sponsors:  
Rep Prout**

**TESTIMONY**

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

\*Rep. Prout reading from his written testimony

\*Chief John Drury Farmington Police Chief – opposed ITL the bill, makes his job easier, can identify vehicles front to back.

Q - Rep. Telerski: Do you think the general public would be able to help with Amber Alerts with a front plate?

A. Chief says yes, makes it easier to identify.

Q - Rep. Ankarberg Do the police use license plates readers, would that help?

A: Chief, the state allows them but not many departments have them.

Q - Rep. Cleaver: Would License plate readers work better with two plates?

A. Chief - yes

Q - Rep. Hill: What about other states that have one plate, how do other states cope with one plate?

A..Technology would have to be adjusted, items such as bikes on back of cars would not be able to read.

- Rep. Torosian supports the bill cars loose value with holes in the front plate. Aerodynamic without plate, no requirement for front plate to be lit.

Q - Rep. Sykes: for Rep. Torosian would you support an amendment for antique cars or other collectable vehicles? Q for Chairman Walsh - In past years discussion about toll collection, no testimony from Toll collections could you look into it.

A. Chairman Walsh - Will look into it.

Q. - Rep. Telerski – DMV would have to still produce 2 plates any change from that?

A - Torosian DMV would get a request 1 plate or 2,

Captain William Haines State Police you can read front plates, opposed to bill.

Q. Rep. Aron how would you feel about antiques and collectables

A – would like to stay with two plates.

Q - Rep. Telerski what is the purpose of a plate ?

A. - that the car is properly registered.

Jeff Oberdank DMV opposed to bill- language is not clear for all different plate types. Also distribution of the plates to towns, do we send 1 plate or 2 for over 200 plates

\*Chris Waszczuk – opposed for ez-pass would not be able to read plates front to back high risk not able to read the front if the transponder is not working. Trailer being pulled cannot read rear plate.

Q - Rep. Aron : What do you do with other state's vehicle that only have one plate.

A - The majority are southern states. We loose revenue if we cannot read plate

# House Remote Testify

## Transportation Committee Testify List for Bill HB260 on 2021-01-29

Support: 15 Oppose: 5 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 5

[Export to Excel](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Drury, John	jdrury@farmingtonpd.com	A Member of the Public	NH Association of Chiefs of Police	Oppose	Yes (0m)	No	1/28/2021 10:43 AM
Prout, Andrew	Andrew.Prout@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself, prime sponsor	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/25/2021 12:34 PM
Waszczuk, Chris	Christopher.M.Waszczuk@dot.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	NHDOT	Oppose	Yes (0m)	No	1/29/2021 9:40 AM
Torosian, Peter	FlyBirdAir@aol.com	An Elected Official	Rockingham County District #14	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/29/2021 10:43 AM
Oberdank, Jeff	Jeffrey.A.Oberdank@dos.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	DMV	Oppose	Yes (0m)	No	1/29/2021 1:41 PM
Lekas, Tony	Rep.Tony.Lekas@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2021 4:44 PM
Duffy, Nicholas	nicholas.k.duffy@doc.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	NH Department of Corrections	Neutral	No	No	1/29/2021 1:26 PM
Ulery, Rep Jordan	reulery@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 5:50 PM
Craig, Kevin	Kevin.Craig@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 12:58 PM
Smith, Jonathan		An	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 4:51

	jhsmithnh5@gmail.com	Elected Official					PM
Greene, Bob	bob.greene@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 7:45 PM
Raposo, Marc	mraposo.nhsta@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	NH School Transportation Association	Oppose	No	No	1/28/2021 3:32 PM
Wied, Alex	gencourt.nh@centromere.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2021 1:02 AM
Lekas, Alicia	rep.alicia.lekas@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 37	Support	No	No	1/29/2021 3:59 AM
Beene, Holly	holly.beene@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:13 PM
See, Alvin	absee@4Liberty.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:13 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/29/2021 12:38 AM
Calitz, Louis	louis@free603.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2021 7:23 AM
Gericke, Carla	carlagericke@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2021 7:29 AM
Mullin, Mickey	wolf@mickeymullin.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/29/2021 8:16 AM
Roy, Terry	Terry.roy@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2021 8:49 PM

Official

# Testimony



## NH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

January 27, 2021

Representative Thomas Walsh  
Chair, Committee on Transportation  
LOB Room 203  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Walsh:

**Re: Opposition to HB 260 relative to number plates for motor vehicles.**

The NH Transportation Association is the state's trade association of school districts and private bus contractors providing transportation for the state's school children. The Association has as its main purpose "the highest degree of safety in the transportation of school children", working with common intra-industry problems, and the cooperation with existing allied industries, associations, and governmental agencies for the advancement of school bus transportation. Members of the Association own and/or operate approximately 90 percent of the school buses traveling New Hampshire highways.

We are writing to express our opposition to HB 260. This is a bill that would eliminate the front license plate for vehicles registered in the state of New Hampshire. A license plate is the only unmistakable identifier on a car and removing the front plate will take away 50% of law enforcement's ability to identify suspects in crimes. Most U.S. states – 31 – and nearly every other country in the world require both rear and front plates. In 1979, Connecticut eliminated front plates, only to reinstall them several years later at the urging of law enforcement. Other states are now looking to add front plates. Why go backward?

This issue is also important for the safety of our children. Our members routinely experience vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses each and every day. Removal of the front license plate will not only hinder the identification of these offenders; it will make bus stops more dangerous for students.

For these reasons, we ask you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of the NH Transportation Association on this important issue.



Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MR' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Marc Raposo, President  
New Hampshire School Transportation Association

Representative Andrew Prout  
6 Raven Drive, Hudson, NH 03051

House Transportation Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Re: Written testimony in support of HB260

To the honorable members of the committee,

This bill will eliminate the requirement for a passenger vehicle to display a front license plate.

The mounting of a front license plate can have a significant effect on the value of certain vehicles. This is especially true with collectable cars, higher end sports cars, and imported vehicles that may not have been designed for a North American shaped license plate.

Enforcement of this requirement is already problematic. To stop and cite a driver for not having a front license plate, an officer must identify that the vehicle is not from another jurisdiction without a front plate requirement and does not have a New Hampshire plate type that is rear-only (for example, the 20 and 60 day temporary plates).

HB1154 in 2016 enabled the use of automated License Plate Readers (LPRs) technology. That law mitigates the effect that no front license plate may have on law enforcement, as equipped officers will still be able to identify vehicles at a greater distance and with a shorter window of opportunity to view the plate than previous manual methods.

Vehicles with only rear license plates are already on our roads. 20 states and 9 (out of 13) of the Canadian provinces/territories do not require front license plates. 7 additional states have exemptions for certain vehicle types or categories. Our neighbor Vermont effectively repealed the requirement to have a unique front license that is useful for identification, first temporarily in 2012 but was then made permanent in 2016. The trend is towards repeal of front plates, Ohio repealed its front plate requirement effective in July 2019 and expects to save \$1.4 million per year from manufacturing fewer plates, while also lowering its registration cost by \$1.25 to Ohioans keep more of their own money. [1]

Additionally, car manufacturers have been seeking to optimize the aerodynamic profile of their vehicles to maximize the fuel efficiency. Ford vehicle engineering manager Jeff Lewis speaking about the EPA MPG rating on Ford trucks is quoted as saying "We get fuel economy 1/100th at a time, and we work really hard, looking at all the details, to get those hundredths." [2] Small things can contribute surprising amounts, such as retractable door handles which alone can contribute 12% to reduce the drag coefficient of a vehicle. [3] A custom car hobbyist in Oregon attempting to achieve a 100 MPG vehicle provided detailed information on the front plate's affect on his project, claiming that it reduced his fuel efficiency by 3-5% depending on the mounting angle. [4] This bill could have a positive environmental impact by reducing the emissions of vehicles or their charging stations.

Front license plates on passenger vehicles are unnecessary, harm the environment, damage the resale value of cars, and the lack of them will not significantly hinder law enforcement goals. I ask that you vote in favor of an ought to pass recommendation.

Representative Andrew Prout  
Prime Sponsor, HB260

#### References:

1. "Ohio Removes Front License Plate Requirement, Joining 19 Other States", Car and Driver, July 2020. Available at: <https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a33030106/ohio-no-front-license-plate/>
2. "Pickup Truck Fuel Economy: Good to the Last Drop", Motor Trend, October 2009. Available at: <http://www.motortrend.com/news/truck-fuel-economy-improvements/>
3. "Top 3 Drivers of the Global Automotive Retractable Door Handle System Market", BusinessWire, January 2018. Available at: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180105005468/en/Top-3-Drivers-of-the-Global-Automotive-Retractable-Door-Handle-System-Market-Technavio>
4. "MAX Update Number 104: The Front Plate Problem", October 2013. Available at: <https://www.motherearthnews.com/en/Editorial/Blogs/Green-Transportation/MAX-Update-Number-104-The-Front-Plate-Problem>

Representative Andrew Prout  
6 Raven Drive, Hudson, NH 03051

House Transportation Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Re: Written testimony in support of HB260

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Enforcement of this requirement is already problematic. To stop and cite a driver for not having a front license plate, an officer must identify that the vehicle is not from another jurisdiction without a front plate requirement and does not have a New Hampshire plate type that is rear-only (for example, the 20 and 60 day temporary plates).

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Front license plates on passenger vehicles are unnecessary, harm the environment, damage the resale value of cars, and the lack of them will not significantly hinder law enforcement goals. I ask that you vote in favor of an ought to pass recommendation.

Representative Andrew Prout  
Prime Sponsor, HB260

#### References:

1. "Ohio Removes Front License Plate Requirement, Joining 19 Other States", Car and Driver, July 2020. Available at: <https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a33030106/ohio-no-front-license-plate/>
2. "Pickup Truck Fuel Economy: Good to the Last Drop", Motor Trend, October 2009. Available at: <http://www.motortrend.com/news/truck-fuel-economy-improvements/>
3. "Top 3 Drivers of the Global Automotive Retractable Door Handle System Market", BusinessWire, January 2018. Available at: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180105005468/en/Top-3-Drivers-of-the-Global-Automotive-Retractable-Door-Handle-System-Market-Technavio>
4. "MAX Update Number 104: The Front Plate Problem", October 2013. Available at: <https://www.motherearthnews.com/en/Editorial/Blogs/Green-Transportation/MAX-Update-Number-104-The-Front-Plate-Problem>

**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:55:53 AM  
**From:** [Ginny](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:24:10 PM  
**To:** [~House Transportation Committee](#)  
**Subject:** HB260  
**Importance:** Normal

---

We would like to suggest an amendment to HB260 to exempt Classic, specialty and street rods from displaying a front plate.

The bill with this amendment would protect the aesthetic contours of these cars.

Many classic and special-interest vehicles are not originally equipped with a designated place to display a front plate.

HB260 as amended would allow greater styling equipment options for automotive enthusiasts in the state and the industry supporting their hobby.

We hope you will consider the possibility of this amendment.

Virginia and John Urdi  
51 Putney Road  
Bow, NH 03304  
603-774-4476

Sent from my iPhone

**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:55:54 AM  
**From:** [deb stevens](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:49:55 PM  
**To:** [Matt Gatzke](#)  
**Cc:** [~House Transportation Committee](#); [Marc Raposo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Written Testimony from NH School Transportation Association - HB 260  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Thank you for your important testimony to the Transportation committee. As I live directly across from an elementary school, I am painfully aware of the safety issues caused by inattentive drivers and outright moving vehicle violations. Safety must be priority over esthetics, resale value & impediments to law enforcement. I appreciate the time you took to weigh-in.

Sincerely,

Representative Deb Stevens  
Nashua Ward 7  
Hillsborough 34

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021, 3:44 PM Matt Gatzke <[matt@dennehybouley.com](mailto:matt@dennehybouley.com)> wrote:

Dear Representative Walsh:

Attached is a letter of testimony submitted in regard to HB 260.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Matt Gatzke  
on behalf of Marc Raposo

--

Matt Gatzke

Program Administrator

NH School Transportation Association

17 Depot St., Suite 3

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-1231

[matt@dennehybouley.com](mailto:matt@dennehybouley.com)



**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:55:54 AM

**From:** [Andrew Prout](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:22:56 PM

**To:** ~House Transportation Committee

**Cc:** [Rebecca Stuart](#)

**Subject:** Written testimony for HB260

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[HB260 Written Testimony.pdf](#) 

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Members of the Transportation Committee,

Attached is a copy of my written testimony in favor of HB260, which has a hearing Friday at 3:00pm.

Sincerely,

Andrew Prout

NH State Representative



**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:55:54 AM

**From:** [Matt Gatzke](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:44:53 PM

**To:** ~House Transportation Committee

**Cc:** [Marc Raposo](#)

**Subject:** Written Testimony from NH School Transportation Association - HB 260

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[final-Letter to Rep. Walsh-NH House Transportation Comm - re hb260.pdf](#) 

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Dear Representative Walsh:

Attached is a letter of testimony submitted in regard to HB 260.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Matt Gatzke  
on behalf of Marc Raposo

--

Matt Gatzke

Program Administrator

NH School Transportation Association


17 Depot St., Suite 3

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-1231

[matt@dennehybouley.com](mailto:matt@dennehybouley.com)



**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 8:55:54 AM  
**From:** [John Drury](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:37:27 AM  
**To:** [~House Transportation Committee](#)  
**Subject:** HB260 Front Plate  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[+drurytestimonyhb260.docx](#) 

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Dear Committee members,  
Thank you for the hard work you do especially during these difficult times.  
Attached please find my testimony in opposition to HB 260 for tomorrow. Sincerely John Drury

--  
Chief John P. Drury  
Farmington New Hampshire  
Police Department  
160 Main Street  
Farmington New Hampshire 03835  
603-755-2731

Representative Andrew Prout  
6 Raven Drive, Hudson, NH 03051

House Transportation Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Re: Written testimony in support of HB260

To the honorable members of the committee,

This bill will eliminate the requirement for a passenger vehicle to display a front license plate.

The mounting of a front license plate can have a significant effect on the value of certain vehicles. This is especially true with collectable cars, higher end sports cars, and imported vehicles that may not have been designed for a North American shaped license plate.

Enforcement of this requirement is already problematic. To stop and cite a driver for not having a front license plate, an officer must identify that the vehicle is not from another jurisdiction without a front plate requirement and does not have a New Hampshire plate type that is rear-only (for example, the 20 and 60 day temporary plates).

HB1154 in 2016 enabled the use of automated License Plate Readers (LPRs) technology. That law mitigates the effect that no front license plate may have on law enforcement, as equipped officers will still be able to identify vehicles at a greater distance and with a shorter window of opportunity to view the plate than previous manual methods.

Vehicles with only rear license plates are already on our roads. 20 states and 9 (out of 13) of the Canadian provinces/territories do not require front license plates. 7 additional states have exemptions for certain vehicle types or categories. Our neighbor Vermont effectively repealed the requirement to have a unique front license that is useful for identification, first temporarily in 2012 but was then made permanent in 2016. The trend is towards repeal of front plates, Ohio repealed its front plate requirement effective in July 2019 and expects to save \$1.4 million per year from manufacturing fewer plates, while also lowering its registration cost by \$1.25 to Ohioans keep more of their own money. [1]

Additionally, car manufacturers have been seeking to optimize the aerodynamic profile of their vehicles to maximize the fuel efficiency. Ford vehicle engineering manager Jeff Lewis speaking about the EPA MPG rating on Ford trucks is quoted as saying "We get fuel economy 1/100th at a time, and we work really hard, looking at all the details, to get those hundredths." [2] Small things can contribute surprising amounts, such as retractable door handles which alone can contribute 12% to reduce the drag coefficient of a vehicle. [3] A custom car hobbyist in Oregon attempting to achieve a 100 MPG vehicle provided detailed information on the front plate's affect on his project, claiming that it reduced his fuel efficiency by 3-5% depending on the mounting angle. [4] This bill could have a positive environmental impact by reducing the emissions of vehicles or their charging stations.

Front license plates on passenger vehicles are unnecessary, harm the environment, damage the resale value of cars, and the lack of them will not significantly hinder law enforcement goals. I ask that you vote in favor of an ought to pass recommendation.

Representative Andrew Prout  
Prime Sponsor, HB260

#### References:

1. "Ohio Removes Front License Plate Requirement, Joining 19 Other States", Car and Driver, July 2020. Available at: <https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a33030106/ohio-no-front-license-plate/>
2. "Pickup Truck Fuel Economy: Good to the Last Drop", Motor Trend, October 2009. Available at: <http://www.motortrend.com/news/truck-fuel-economy-improvements/>
3. "Top 3 Drivers of the Global Automotive Retractable Door Handle System Market", BusinessWire, January 2018. Available at: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180105005468/en/Top-3-Drivers-of-the-Global-Automotive-Retractable-Door-Handle-System-Market-Technavio>
4. "MAX Update Number 104: The Front Plate Problem", October 2013. Available at: <https://www.motherearthnews.com/en/Editorial/Blogs/Green-Transportation/MAX-Update-Number-104-The-Front-Plate-Problem>



# Farmington Police Department

*John P. Drury, Chief of Police*

*160 Main St, Farmington, NH 03835*

*Office: (603) 755-2731*

*Dispatch: (603) 755-2231*

*Fax: (603) 755-9712*

January 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Walsh and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Drury, and I am the Police Chief in Farmington, New Hampshire. I have just started my 22<sup>nd</sup> year in law enforcement.

I am here to testify in **opposition** to HB 260-FN – Relative to number plates for motor vehicles – on behalf of myself and the NH Association of Chiefs of Police.

Thank you for allowing me to address this bill. As a total car guy I dislike the front plate, as a police officer and a member of the Regional Accident Reconstruction Team, I MUST admit I love them. Over the years the front plate has made my job much easier. Route 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.

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 also works 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 5psi, 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.

In closing, I must oppose this bill because the safety of the public outweighs my car guy vanity.

I respectfully ask that you find this bill Inexpedient to Legislate.

Thank you for your consideration and your time,  
Sincerely,

Chief John Drury  
Farmington NH  
Chief of Police



**House Bill 260-FN**

Presented By: Christopher Waszczuk  
NHDOT Deputy Commissioner

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

The Department has some serious concerns with HB260 and the requirement that only the rear plate of a passenger vehicle be displayed on the vehicle. This presents very serious problems for the E-ZPass system that we operate in this state, as the front license plate will no longer be required and no longer available to be captured by the violation enforcement system in place to collect from those that pass through the electronic toll lanes without a valid transponder.

**NH TURNPIKE SYSTEM & E-ZPASS**

- As you know, the Turnpike System, which is a critical component of the Department's and State's transportation system, operates the E-ZPass system. E-ZPass is used by over 30 toll agencies in 19 states. The system provides a seamless, efficient and effective way to collect a toll, from in-state residents and out-of-state users, particularly in the open road toll and all electronic toll environment.
- Also, the Turnpike System operates as an enterprise fund, where all the revenue collected on the system must be used on the system. This revenue is used to fund the system's operations and maintenance, debt service on the outstanding bonds used to build portions of the system, R&R (or renewal & reconstruction) work conducted to keep the system in good working order, and for capital expansion work that is currently included in the state's ten-year transportation improvement plan (aka Ten-Year Plan). Bottom line, all the revenue is put right back into the system for the benefit of the users.
- In FY19, prior to the pandemic, \$131M in toll revenue was collected with 123M transactions recorded.
- Last fiscal year, or FY20, those numbers dropped to \$118M toll revenue collected with 110M transactions recorded.
- Of those transactions in FY20, where no valid transponder was read; the license plate of the vehicle was captured, resulting in 6.4M images reviewed. According to our back office vendor, roughly 60% of those images or 3.8M capture the front license plate for ItoI, 7-day to pay or invoice processing.
- Therefore, it is very concerning for the E-ZPass system with a potential for high revenue loss if the front license plate is no longer required.
- The Department relies on the availability of both plates on a vehicle to provide the highest ability to capture a legible license plate. Many times, plates are blocked (rear plate is blocked with bike rack, trailer, or other appurtenance), rear plates covered with snow, mud, or debris, or depending on the camera angle and time of year, rear plates are not legible due to sun glare or darkness issues. Each blocked or illegible image, results in lost toll revenue. The ability to have redundancy and ability to read either the front or rear plate is paramount to maximize the collection of toll revenue when a valid transponder is not read in the lanes.
- Additionally, the Department does not have rear cameras in all of its toll lanes. The cash only lanes at the toll plazas only have front cameras installed to capture violators. If this bill is passed, in addition to the potential high revenue loss in the electronic toll lanes (ORT and E-ZPass), the Department would need to install rear cameras in 26 lanes at an estimated cost of \$9k per lane or \$234k.

**CONCLUSION**

- For all the reasons above, the Department cannot support this bill and the requirement for passenger vehicles to have only one plate, the rear license plate.
- This concludes my testimony and I'll be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



Bill as  
Introduced

HB 260-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0169  
11/04

HOUSE BILL **260-FN**

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

SPONSORS: Rep. Prout, Hills. 37; Rep. Conley, Straf. 13; Rep. J. Osborne, Rock. 4; Rep. Torosian, Rock. 14; Rep. Warden, Hills. 15; Rep. A. Lekas, Hills. 37; Rep. T. Lekas, Hills. 37

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that a passenger vehicle shall only be required to display 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 struck through~~]  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

21-0169  
11/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

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 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  
21-0169  
12/30/20

HB 260-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to number plates for motor vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT:    State                     County                     Local                     None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Decrease	Indeterminable Decrease	Indeterminable Decrease
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	\$0	\$0
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Reflectorized Plate Fund			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill eliminates the requirement for passenger vehicles to display a number plate on the front of the vehicle (requiring only a plate on the rear). It is assumed that the Division of Motor Vehicles would continue the current process of manufacturing two number plates per set as this bill only refers to passenger vehicles. The plate fee is \$4.00 and to the extent individuals choose to purchase and only display one plate, there would be a loss in revenue to the state reflectorized plate fund. The Department of Safety cannot estimate how many individuals will choose to only display one plate. Furthermore, the Department states there would be an indeterminable one-time programming cost to make this change in its registration system.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety

# Fiscal Notes

LBA  
21-0260  
Amended 2/25/21

**HB 222-FN FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2021-0224h)**

AN ACT        relative to official cover plates.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation, as amended, has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety