

# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**March 5, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 496-FN,**

**AN ACT relative to license plate covers. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

**Rep. Larry Gagne**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Transportation</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 496-FN</b>
Title:	<b>relative to license plate covers.</b>
Date:	<b>March 5, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2021-0631h</b>

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill prohibits persons from attaching or permitting to be attached to a license plate any coverings that are colored, smoked or tinted. The testimony that we heard stated that the language of this bill defines more accurately what obscuring a license plate means. The amendment simply changes the effective date from 60 days after passage to January 1, 2022.

Vote 18-1.

Rep. Larry Gagne  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Transportation

**HB 496-FN**, relative to license plate covers. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Larry Gagne for Transportation. This bill prohibits persons from attaching or permitting to be attached to a license plate any coverings that are colored, smoked or tinted. The testimony that we heard stated that the language of this bill defines more accurately what obscuring a license plate means. The amendment simply changes the effective date from 60 days after passage to January 1, 2021. **Vote 18-1.**

Rep. Walsh, Merr. 24  
March 4, 2021  
2021-0631h  
11/06

Amendment to HB 496-FN

- 1 Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:
- 2
- 3     2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on

BILL TITLE: HB 496 relative to license plate covers

DATE: 3/5/21

LOB ROOM: 301-303

MOTION: (Please check one box)

X OTP                     ITL                     Retain (1st year)                     Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_ (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_Gagne\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_Hill\_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 18-1 \_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP      X OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1st year)                     Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_ (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_Gagne\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Rep. \_\_Hill\_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 18-1 \_\_\_

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?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_
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

Bill #: HB 496 Motion: OTP/A AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 3/5/21

<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		
Fenton, Donovan W.	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>	18	1	



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

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



2021 SESSION

TRANSPORTATION

Bill #: HB-496 Motion: OTP AM #: 0631h Exec Session Date: 3/5/21

<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	
Fenton, Donovan W.	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>	18	1	

# Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON

**BILL TITLE:** HB 496-FN relative to license plate covers

**DATE:** 2/12/21

**LOB ROOM:** 301-303

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:03

**Time Adjourned:** 1:19 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, Rep. Newman

**Bill Sponsors:**  
**Rep Pearson**

**TESTIMONY**

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

Rep. Pearson introduce the bill this bills involves the popularity to obscure the plate 261:176 II  
Many states have this law.

Q -Rep. Telerski Last term I voted against the bill, can you convince me to vote for it, the statue already says you cannot obscure the plate. Isn't any plate cover going to cover it?

A. All license plates have to be clear and clean.

Chairman Walsh What is difference between last bill and this one

A. It has to be 100 percent clear, that was removed, this bill reflects changes from last year

Q - Rep. Sykes Why wouldn't it be clearer that anyone who has a cover it needs to be clear?

A Translucent would be accepted not tinted or color changing.

Q - Rep. Telerski Do you feel this bill clarifies this meaning and clears it up from the statue?

A color part does not concern him.

Sgt. Kelbie NH State Police – Does not have a concern with the bill and it covered the, have stopped cars with snow on the bumper covering the plate. Anything that covers a plate is a reason to stop

Rep. Newman for Rep. Rich

# House Remote Testify

## Transportation Committee Testify List for Bill HB496 on 2021-02-12

Support: 5 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

[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>
Haynes, William	william.r.haynes@dos.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	Department of Safety and Office of Highway Safety	Support	No	No	2/10/2021 1:00 PM
Sargent, Elizabeth	esargent@sheehan.com	A Lobbyist	NH Association of Chiefs of Police	Support	No	No	2/11/2021 1:16 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/12/2021 6:56 AM
Kelby, Christopher	christopher.kelby@dos.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	Department of Safety	Support	No	No	2/12/2021 12:24 PM
Howard Jr., Raymond	brhowardjr@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/12/2021 9:10 AM

# Testimony

**Archived:** Monday, July 19, 2021 9:48:06 AM  
**From:** [Dennis Thompson](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:52:37 PM  
**To:** [~House Transportation Committee](#)  
**Subject:** additional photo  
**Importance:** Normal

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Please see attached



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 496-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0494  
11/08

HOUSE BILL **496-FN**

AN ACT relative to license plate covers.

SPONSORS: Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits persons from attaching or permitting to be attached to a license plate any coverings that are colored, smoked, or tinted.

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.  
21-0494  
11/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

AN ACT relative to license plate covers.

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

1 Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Misuse or Failure to Display Plates. Amend RSA 261:176, II to read as follows:

**II. Any person who applies or permits to be applied any covering to a license plate that is colored, smoked, or tinted shall be guilty of a violation.**

**III.** The fine for a violation of this section shall be \$150.

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

LBA  
21-0494  
1/8/21

HB 496-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to license plate covers.

FISCAL IMPACT:     State             County             Local             None

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

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a violation level offense for persons who apply coverings to a license plate that are colored, smoked, or tinted. It is not possible to estimate how many new cases may arise as a result of this change, if any, however the Judicial Branch estimates average cost of violation level cases to be \$53 in FY 2022. It should be noted that average case cost estimates for FY 2022 are based on data that is more than ten years old and does not reflect changes to the courts over that same period of time or the impact these changes may have on processing the various case types. Additionally, violations of this statute carry a fine of \$150. Therefore, this bill may increase revenue to the state highway fund.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Judicial Branch