

REGULAR CALENDAR

October 4, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 1445-FN,

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

Having considered the same, report the same: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.

Rep. Larry Gagne

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Transportation
Bill Number:	HB 1445-FN
Title:	relative to the identification of police vehicles.
Date:	October 4, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill is not recommended for future legislation because it would be an unfunded mandate to local police jurisdictions. It would also hamper law enforcement from being able to get speeders of the road.

Vote 10-0.

Rep. Larry Gagne
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Transportation

HB 1445-FN, relative to the identification of police vehicles.**NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION .**

Rep. Larry Gagne for Transportation. This bill is not recommended for future legislation because it would be an unfunded mandate to local police jurisdictions. It would also hamper law enforcement from being able to get speeders of the road. **Vote 10-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 1, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 1445-FN,

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill be REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY.

Rep. Travis O'Hara

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Transportation
Bill Number:	HB 1445-FN
Title:	relative to the identification of police vehicles.
Date:	February 1, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

While this bill is well intended and recognized by the Department of Safety, the current language raised many questions and could lead to confusion in the statute. The committee agreed that this subject would be best served by further study.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Travis O'Hara
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Transportation

HB 1445-FN, relative to the identification of police vehicles. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Travis O'Hara for Transportation. While this bill is well intended and recognized by the Department of Safety, the current language raised many questions and could lead to confusion in the statute. The committee agreed that this subject would be best served by further study. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1445-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to the identification of police vehicles.

DATE: October 4, 2022

LOB ROOM: 201-203

MOTION:

Interim Study (2nd yr) Not Recommended for Future Legislation

Moved by Rep. Gagne

Seconded by Rep. Telerski

Vote: 10-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Karel Crawford, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION on bill # 1445

BILL TITLE: *Relative to the identification of Police Vehicles*
DATE: 10/4/22
LOB ROOM: 201-203

MOTION: Recommended for Future Legislation
 Not Recommended for Future Legislation

Moved by Rep. Gagne Seconded by Rep. Telerski Vote: 10-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. *Karl Casper*
Committee Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/10/2022 9:13:23 AM
 Roll Call Committee Registers
 Report

2022 SESSION

Transportation

Bill #: 1445 Motion: Not Recommended AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 10/4/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
✓ Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman	✓		
✓ Gagne, Larry G. Vice Chairman	✓		
Smith, Steven D.			
✓ Crawford, Karel A. Clerk	✓		
✓ Hill, Gregory G.	✓		
Thompson, Dennis J.			
Ankarberg, Aidan			
✓ Gorski, Ted	✓		
O'Hara, Travis J.			
Pitaro, Matthew			
Sykes, George E.			
Cleaver, Skip J.			
Fenton, Donovan W.			
✓ Rombeau, Catherine	✓		
✓ Rich, Cecilia	✓		
✓ Telerski, Laura D.	✓		
✓ Fox, Dru	✓		
Stevens, Deb			
✓ Veilleux, Daniel T.	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1445-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to the identification of police vehicles.

DATE: February 1, 2022

LOB ROOM: 203

MOTIONS: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

Moved by Rep. O'Hara

Seconded by Rep. Gagne

Vote: 19-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Karel Crawford, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Transportation

Bill #: 1445-FN Motion: Interim Study AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/1/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman	✓		
Gagne, Larry G. Vice Chairman	✓		
Smith, Steven D.	✓		
Crawford, Karel A. Clerk	✓		
Hill, Gregory G.	✓		
Thompson, Dennis J.	✓		
Ankarberg, Aidan	✓		
Gorski, Ted	✓		
O'Hara, Travis J.	✓		
Pitaro, Matthew <i>Peter Torosian</i>	✓		
Sykes, George E.	✓		
Cleaver, Skip J. <i>Rep. Honigan</i>	✓		
Fenton, Donovan W.	✓		
Rombeau, Catherine	✓		
Rich, Cecilia	✓		
Telerski, Laura D.	✓		
Fox, Dru	✓		
Stevens, Deb <i>Rep. Schultz</i>	✓		
Veilleux, Daniel T.	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL TITLE: HB 1445-FN relative to the identification of police vehicles

DATE: 1/25/22

LOB ROOM: 201-203

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 2:34 pm

Time Adjourned: 3:11 pm

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

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Trottier

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Trottier introduced the bill

My intent is for police cruisers being used on an everyday patrol. Hard for the public to know if these cruisers are real or not. Concerned that every day people are buying old cruisers keeping the lights on them. Ghost plates cannot be traced with the DMV. These are plates that are using for undercover work.

Some states are mandating a solid blue light across the cruiser. Study shows that this detours crime.

Detective should not have to be

State Police say they have 115 cruiser that do not comply to this bill

I would ask that the detective cruisers be exempt with an amendment.

Rep. Walsh: we did have an issue with corrections, and did you ask them how it will affect them.

Elizabeth Sargent NH Assoc. of Chiefs of Police opposition –

Feel it is an unfunded mandate, they feel that a chief in an unmark vehicle needs to be able to do their job. Chiefs feel this would eliminate their ability to do their job.

Russan Chester – favor of the bill, I was stopped by a fake police officer, I believe cruisers should be marked, and identified,

Mike Commerford NHSP –

350 cruisers 230 are fully marked. 115 other cruisers that are not fully marked are black and silver they do not have the green and tan and they are issued two plated, one with cruiser numbers and regular plates. Sometimes those unmark cruisers do go out to bolster the numbers and they put their number plates go on at that time.

Rep. Walsh – Why you need the passenger plates? A. Most are Detectives bureau; they go to victims ones it tones down the appearance use the ghost plates.

Rep. Walsh – all ghost plates except drug cars will come to NHSP

Rep. Gorski – Some of the cruiser would have to be marked, who needs to pay for that. A. NHSP would pay for that

Rep. O'Hara – 120 dollars for the permanent decals

Rep Fenton – Do you know any other states that have to all have decals

Rep. Telerski: if this

Rep. Hill – following up on the impersonation, are their other ways to handle it with other technology to identify a cruiser A. We are trained to let people know that you are a police cruiser.

Rep. O'Hara – thought of a solid blue light, A we have the option of staying the lights as a solid blue.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Karel Crawford, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Transportation Committee Testify List for Bill HB1445 on 2022-01-25

Support: 22 Oppose: 14 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>
Craig, Kevin	Lancaster, NH Kevin.Craig@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Coös-4	Support	No	No	1/19/2022 4:34 PM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 9:34 PM
Domenico, William	Manchester, NH bill@resunltd4u.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:52 AM
Greyes, Natch	Concord, NH ngreyes@nhmunicipal.org	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Municipal Association	Oppose	No	No	1/24/2022 10:19 AM
Reed, Sarah	Concord, NH stubbs.saraha@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:43 PM
chapman, kevin	marlborough, NH denoet103@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 5:24 PM
Littlefield, Richard	Laconia, NH littlefieldr21@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 6:08 PM
Bordes, Mike	Laconia, NH Mikebordes@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 6:14 PM
Levesque, Brian	Manchester, NH blevesque@merrimacknh.gov	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/24/2022 8:01 PM
Pumilia, MaryAnn	Laconia, NH mpumilia@frontiernet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:06 PM
Baiocchetti, Vinnie	Gilmanton Iron Works, NH vbaiocchetti@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/24/2022 8:10 PM
Wied, Alex	Manchester, NH gencourt.nh@centromere.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:28 PM
Wood, Zephan	Pembroke, NH zephanw@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:42 PM

Smith, Julie	Nashua, NH cantdog@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 6:17 AM
Grenier, Wendy	Nashua, NH cook4myloves@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 7:10 AM
Croft, David	Salisbury, NH Dcroft4@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 7:50 AM
Lord, Brian	Deering, NH blord@antrimpolice.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 7:56 AM
Trexler, Larisa	Stoddard, NH trexlah@icloud.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:00 AM
Trexler, Ryan	Stoddard, NH trexlers@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:01 AM
Reynolds, Charles	Dover, NH reynolds.charles@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 8:24 AM
West, Greg	Salisbury, NH gregsal2@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:25 AM
Sims, Julie	Newport, NH Jpmom39@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:27 AM
Sims, Roy	Newport, NH Jpmom39@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:27 AM
Duquette, Gary	Deerfield, NH policechief@toownofdeerfieldnh.com	A Lobbyist	NH Chiefs of Police Association	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 8:46 AM
Stevens, Representative Deb	Nashua, NH debstevens4ward7@gmail.com	An Elected Official	My constituents, Nashua Ward 7	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 8:59 AM
Dodge, Dustin	Raymond, NH dodge_dustin@hotmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 9:14 AM
Chase, Mark	Center Harbor, NH mchase@centerharbornh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 9:24 AM
Lewandoski, Mark	Belmont, NH policechief@belmontnh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 9:35 AM
Laurent, Tara	Nottingham, NH tlaurent@greenlandpd.us	A Member of the Public	NH Assoc of Chiefs of Police & Greenland Police Dept	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 9:52 AM
Reams, Mark	Amherst, NH mreams@amherstnh.gov	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 10:00 AM
Wright, Bill	Belmont, NH william.h.wright1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 10:36 AM

Melvin, Daniel	Auburn, NH DanMelvin@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 10:58 AM
Connolly, Ross	Merrimack, NH rconnolly@afphq.org	A Lobbyist	Americans for Prosperity-New Hampshire	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:00 AM
Marquis, Eric	Weare, NH hnk@gsinet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 11:35 AM
Goldstein, David	AUBURN, NH dgoldstein@franklinnh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2022 11:38 AM
Womack, Perfenece	Denver, CO perfwomack@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 12:39 PM



One Municipal Drive Derry, NH 03038 www.nhchiefsofpolice.com

New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police

January 26, 2022

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Joseph Hoebeke and I have been a Police Officer for 21 years and currently serve as the Chief of Police for the Hollis Police Department, a nationally accredited law enforcement agency. I also serve as the current President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

I am aware that there was a public hearing on HB 1145, as introduced by Rep. Trottier, on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 2:30 PM. Although I fully intended to be present for the hearing and offer testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to this bill, I could not attend given a lengthy meeting of the Police Standards and Training Council, to which I am a member. As such, I ask that this written correspondence be considered as my testimony in opposition to this legislation.

Each year, the New Hampshire Legislature considers hundreds of bills, many of which are intended to improve the quality of life for our citizens and for those who visit and enjoy the beauty of the Granite State. I will be clear that is not one of those bills and does nothing more than to inhibit agencies from utilizing their discretion and local control in the use of allocated resources, like police vehicles.

Let me first speak to the wording of the bill, which is highly problematic. Again, I ask the question, what purpose does this bill serve? I often hear the word accountability and transparency in 21st Century policing modicums and can assure you this bill has absolutely nothing to do with transparency. Moreover, I find it a stretch to think that a bill that would require agencies to have municipal license plates and markings on all of their police vehicles is somehow linked to transparency. Let's be clear, this bill has nothing to do with transparency.

I also wanted to speak to the costs associated with this proposed legislation. Although there is a fiscal note assigned to the bill, this does not even come close to properly accounting for the costs that will be incurred by jurisdictions throughout the State of New Hampshire. Remarkably, it only accounts for costs to be incurred by the Department of Safety and New Hampshire Fish and Game. As noted, the impact on localities and counties is not known.

Did you know the cost of a set of municipal license plates is \$16.00, while graphics for police cruisers can cost upwards to \$1,000.00. Additionally, to equip cruisers with 360-degree lighting, as the language of the bill specifies, would also be costly and time

consuming. Who shall bear the responsibility of paying these costs? Does the State intend to appropriate money for jurisdictions, who are already struggling to properly fund municipal budgets, so that agencies can meet this requirement should this bill pass? If you do not have a plan to do so, this is an unfunded mandate.

I also take issue with lines 10 – 12 of the legislation, which state the following:

“This paragraph shall not apply to a police vehicle being used primarily for law enforcement functions involving surveillance, drug enforcement, or fugitive or wanted person apprehension.”

The key word in this sentence is PRIMARILY, a term that is quite subjective and open to interpretation. As a Police Chief, I have an unmarked vehicle, with emergency lights, and a regular passenger plate. In my interpretation, I am a law enforcement officer engaging in law enforcement functions from the minute I leave my driveway in the morning, until the time I pull back into the driveway at night. My first priority and responsibility is and will always be public safety. If I am driving through Hollis and I see a motor vehicle violation, the very language of this bill would prohibit me from engaging in enforcement activities, even though I am required to identify myself to a motorist while engaging in such activities. Or would it? The word ‘primarily’ clearly means to me something completely different than what it means to the bill’s sponsor.

I will also state there is a very real value to having unmarked vehicles, outside of those reasons specified in the foregoing section. There is no doubt that serious traffic infractions like impaired driving, distracted driving, and aggressive driving have increased throughout the State. More concerning is the steady rise in traffic fatalities. These are two issues mute from this bill, and I can tell you that there is a very real benefit to targeted use of unmarked police vehicles when conducting proactive traffic enforcement.

Lastly, I have heard the argument that people have been purchasing police cruisers throughout the State and using them for personal use. This has been the circumstance for decades, and for those law enforcement practitioners working in our communities know that the argument that there is rampant impersonation of police officers is not accurate. Where is the data to support these claims because I can share data I’ve collected in my time as a police officer to show this is not an issue. The bigger issue is and should be legislation aimed to take away tools law enforcement officers use to keep roadways safe while forcing an unfunded mandate on municipalities.

In my humble opinion, this bill intends to address a problem that simply does not exist. We, as Police Chiefs, are focused on funding policing and outreach programs that address 21st century policing principles.

As such, I implore you to find this bill **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**. This legislation is unnecessary and does nothing more than to erode local control and the discretion of Police Chiefs to make appropriate use of their resources in an effort to ensure public safety in their communities.



One Municipal Drive Derry, NH 03038 www.nhchiefsofpolice.com

New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police

Given this testimony, I, as a Chief of Police and as President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police Oppose this bill and would ask you to find it Inexpedient to Legislate.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you might have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph R. Hoebeke
President, New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief of Police, Hollis Police Department

Archived: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:17:14 PM
From: jhoebeke@hollisnh.org
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:51:29 PM
To: ~House Transportation Committee
Subject: Testimony from Chief Joseph Hoebeke re: HB 1445 - Relative to identification of police vehicles
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
HB 1145 TEstimony_Edited_JAN_2022.docx ;

Dear Chairman Walch and honorable members of the Transportation Committee:

Attached, please find my testimony relative to HB 1445, as introduced by Rep. Trottier on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. My apologies I could not be present to speak in OPPOSITION to this bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

V/R,

Joe Hoebeke

Joseph R. Hoebeke, Chief of Police
President, New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police (2021 – 2022)
Hollis Police Department
9 Silver Lake Road
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
Business: (603) 465-7637
Fax: (603) 465-7808



<https://www.facebook.com/hollispolicedepartment/>

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Archived: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:17:14 PM
From: [Zephan Wood](#)
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:46:21 PM
To: [~House Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: Support HB1445
Importance: Normal

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My family members and I would like to express our support for HB1445 that will require police cars to display their agency name, license plates, and emergency lights when being used for a valid law enforcement function. Police cars disguised as regular vehicles are a threat to liberty, accountability, and public safety. This bill seeks to take law enforcement activity out of the shadows and into the light for the benefit of unsuspecting Granite Staters. Police should be held accountable to the communities and individuals that they serve and allowing for them to obfuscate their license plates and/or hide the fact that they are law enforcement officers impedes that. In order to bolster integrity and accountability in police departments and to help foster a trust of police in the community, this bill should be passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zephan N. Wood,
Citizen and taxpayer of NH

Archived: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:17:14 PM
From: [Mike Hoiriis](#)
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 2:36:36 PM
To: [~House Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: HB 1445 FN
Importance: Normal

Honorable Committee members

I am writing to you as a Concerned resident, volunteer firefighter/EMT and registered voter residing in Bennington NH. While I fully support HB 1445 FN (An act relative to the marking of police cars) I feel there is a glaring loophole in the language as written.

There is a police vehicle marking practice that is becoming alarmingly more common in law enforcement, and is beginning to spill over into other areas of Public Safety. This practice is the application of Stealth Graphics sometimes called "ghost graphics". A police cruiser is "marked" using retro-reflective graphics that match the paint color of the vehicle. For example, an all-black car would have the department logo and graphics in black or clear retro-reflective vinyl applied. The result is a vehicle that would appear to citizens as an all-black "unmarked" car until headlights or some other light source were shown directly on the graphic, activating the retro-reflective properties of the vinyl film. In this way, a police agency could meet this requirement of having a marked vehicle while the vehicle remains invisible to the general public most of the time, meeting the letter of this law while defying the spirit of the law as intended.

The language about the decals should include the language to the effect of them being in a "contrasting color" to the painted surface they are applied to.

In the pursuit of major felons, drug dealers, undercover operations etc, there are many legitimate reasons for Law Enforcement to have undercover vehicles. Larger departments may have a legitimate need to provide detectives and senior officials, unmarked cars capable of responding to incidents with warning lights and siren. There is no Legitimate or a benign need for uniformed patrol officers to be driving a vehicle that does not immediately stand out as a police car.

As motorists, we all tend to look at our speedometer anytime we see a marked police car and adjust our speed accordingly. With "ghost graphics" cruisers, uniformed patrol officers are not easily seen and thus it makes it easier to "catch" speeders and more importantly issue citations and fines. This begs the question of what the true aim of Traffic enforcement should be. Is it to reduce injuries on the roadways by encouraging motorists to drive safely? If so, then the presence on the road of well-marked police cars with roof lights accomplishes this goal perfectly. If the goal is ticket production and revenue generation, then the Ghost Graphics would seem the ideal way to accomplish this.

The broader question at play here is how do jurisdictions view their citizens? Are we the flock to be protected, and corrected as needed by the sheepdogs, or are we simply prey to be pounced on by camouflaged wolves and our cash extracted? Whenever I see a ghost graphic police vehicle, I know immediately how that jurisdiction feels about Me-I'm an ATM and they can wait for me to step out of line so they can make a withdrawal.

Another issue of concern, while certainly less likely, is the abundance of ghost graphics vehicles would certainly make it easier for police impersonators. It is very easy to drive a one color police-looking vehicle with hidden emergency lights bought online and wear a fake uniform to pull over unsuspecting motorists. It is next to impossible to get away with driving around in a fake marked police car with roof lights for very long without someone noticing and contacting the real Police. This occurred in New Hampshire as recently as 2019 when a man in an ex-state police car was responding to motor vehicle accidents impersonating various public safety roles.

Requiring all New Hampshire police agencies to utilize conspicuously marked police vehicles with easily identifiable graphics in colors contrasting to the surface they are on serves and much more important

public safety function than any increased revenue gained through stealthy, camouflaged Ghost graphic vehicles

Thank You

Michael Hoiris
Bennington, NH

HB 1445-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2002

12/04

HOUSE BILL ***1445-FN***

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

SPONSORS: Rep. Trottier, Belk. 6; Rep. Bordes, Belk. 3; Rep. O'Hara, Belk. 9; Rep. Littlefield,
Belk. 3; Rep. Craig, Coos 4

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires certain law enforcement vehicles to display the agency name, law enforcement license plates, and emergency lights when being used for a valid law enforcement function.

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.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; Identification of Police Vehicles. Amend RSA 265:8 by inserting after
2 paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

3 VIII.(a) All police vehicles being used for a valid law enforcement function shall be fully
4 marked with visible identifiers, including:

5 (1) The law enforcement agency's name on the driver and passenger sides of the
6 vehicle.

7 (2) Municipal, state, or county law enforcement license plates displayed on the front
8 and rear of the vehicle. Said police vehicles shall not display a passenger license plate.

9 (3) Emergency lights as defined in RSA 266:78-a, I(a), which are visible 360 degrees.

10 (b) This paragraph shall not apply to a police vehicle being used primarily for law
11 enforcement functions involving surveillance, drug enforcement, or fugitive or wanted person
12 apprehension.

13 (c) Police vehicles being used for administrative purposes only shall display the
14 appropriate license plate pursuant to subparagraph (a)(2) and emergency lights pursuant to
15 subparagraph (a)(3). Police vehicles being used to transport an officer for a court appearance or for
16 training purposes are exempt from the requirements of paragraph (a)(2).

17 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1445-FN- FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$318,550	\$16,620	\$16,620
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Turnpike

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires certain law enforcement vehicles display the agency name, a law enforcement license plate, and emergency lights when utilized for law enforcement functions. The Department of Safety, Division of State Police, has more than 350 cruisers that are used by various troops and units, of which approximately 235 are patrol cruisers that already adhere to the proposed requirements. The remaining 115 state police cruisers are cruisers that all have 360-degree lighting and the state police license plate, however they are unmarked in various colors and do not have identifiable decals on the driver and passenger's side door. These cruisers are primary assigned to detectives and administrative staff, however, also perform the functions of a patrol cruiser when traveling to and from assignments, when working in a patrol capacity on holidays, and when participating in special traffic enforcement initiatives and events. Therefore, it is assumed all of these vehicles would need to adhere to the proposed requirements. The Department's estimates the cost to mark the cruisers would be \$2,770 per cruiser (\$2,650 for paint and \$120 for decals) and a total cost of \$318,550 for all 115 cruisers. Furthermore, the Department states these cruisers are replaced at a rate of approximately 5%, or six, per year. Therefore, there would be an ongoing cost of \$16,620 per year (six cruisers X \$2,770). It is assumed all costs would be incurred beginning in FY 2023.

The Fish and Game Department states this bill would have no impact on its budget as all its vehicles subject to this requirement are already in compliance.

The requirements of this bill would apply to county and local law enforcement agencies, however, the number of vehicles this would apply to that are currently not in compliance is not known, therefore this bill's impact, if any, on county and local expenditures in FY 2023 and each year thereafter is indeterminable.

It is assumed any fiscal impact would not occur until after FY 2022.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Departments of Safety, Fish and Game Department, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association