

May 12, 2010

**S 1132. MOTOR VEHICLES LAW CHANGES.** Filed 5/12/10. *TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO TRANSFER EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; SPECIFY THE DATE OF EXPIRATION OF A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE; PROHIBIT SPECIFIED LICENSE PLATE COVERS; REPEAL AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATION PLATES; MAKE CHANGES TO THE LAW GOVERNING DEALER PLATES AND TRANSPORTER PLATES; CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN FREE LICENSE PLATES; ELIMINATE THE FEE FOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL BY MAIL; REPEAL A REQUIREMENT FOR SEPARATE REGISTRATION OF LOGGING TRUCKS; AUTHORIZE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PATROL VEHICLES TO USE RED LIGHTS; AND PROVIDE THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LAWS GOVERNING TRANSPORTER PLATES IS GROUNDS FOR DENYING, SUSPENDING, OR REVOKING A DEALER LICENSE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.*

Amends GS 20-3 to authorize the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (Commissioner) to transfer a Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) employee, upon request of the employee, from one locality in the state to another. Requires that the transfer be made to a position in the same salary grade as the position which the employee is leaving.

Amends GS 20-7(f) to specify that an original or renewed commercial drivers license expires on the birthday of the licensed person in the fifth year after the license was issued. Does not include a commercial drivers license for licensee certified to drive a school bus under GS 20-37.16.

Amends GS 20-63(g) to provide that any person operating a motor vehicle who places a cover on a registration renewal sticker that makes the information on the sticker illegible commits an infraction and is subject to a penalty under GS 14-3.1.

Repeals GS 20-64.2 which authorized the issuance of a special permit for the emergency use of a registration plate on a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the permit was issued.

Amends GS 20-79 to expand the governing regulations regarding the use of a dealer license plate to apply to a dealer transporter plate. Provides additional restrictions as to the permitted display on a vehicle of a dealer license plate or a dealer transport plate. Also increases the number of dealer plates that may be obtained.

Current law provides that a *person engaged in a business* requiring the limited operation of a vehicle for specified purposes may obtain a transporter plate. Amends GS 20-79.2 to provide that a business or a dealer licensed under Article 12 of GS Chapter 20 requiring the limited operation of a vehicle for specified purposes may obtain a transporter plate. Makes conforming changes to provide that it is a business and not a person who may obtain a transporter plate. Limits the issuance of a transporter plate to licensed dealers for specified purposes including picking up a vehicle for repairs, transporting a vehicle to an auction for sale, or driving a vehicle to and from a motor vehicle show. Makes further amendments to the purposes for which a transporter plate may be obtained, including requiring proof of garage liability insurance in specified circumstances and increasing the age of an individual driving a vehicle to or from a parade. Amends the sanctions imposed for driving a vehicle with a transporter plate in violation of the restrictions on the use of the plate by increasing the dollar amount of the penalties for the violations. Makes it a Class I felony for any person or business to provide a transporter plate to a person or a business for money or anything of value. Permits a law enforcement having probable cause to believe that there is a transporter plate violation to seize the plate. Makes a transporter plate subject to GS 20-63 except for the requirements that the plate display the registration number of a motor vehicle and the "First in Flight" logo. Provides additional regulations regarding the design and issuing of transporter plates by the DMV. Requires any vehicle being operated on the state's highways using a transporter plate be covered by liability insurance that meets the requirements of Article 9A of GS Chapter 20. Amends GS 20-294 to make failing to comply with the laws governing transporter plates grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking a dealer license.

Amends GS 20-79.7(a) to clarify the distribution and eligibility for certain free special registration plates.

Amends GS 20-85.1 to eliminate the postage and handling fee for vehicle registration by mail.

Repeals GS 20-88.02 requiring the separate registration of logging trucks.

Amends GS 20-130.1 to authorize Incident Management Assistance Patrol vehicles operated by the Department of Transportation to use red lights.

Effective December 1, 2010 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Goss.**

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