



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5507**

February Session, 2012

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05507JUD\_\_\_040212\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF ENHANCED  
RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (74) of section 14-1 of the 2012 supplement to  
2 the general statutes, as amended by section 37 of public act 10-110 and  
3 section 61 of public act 11-213, is repealed and the following is  
4 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

5 (74) "Registration number" means the identifying number, symbol  
6 or letters, or [both] combination of such number, symbol or letters,  
7 assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this  
9 section and section 3 of this act:

10 (1) "Enhanced recognition number plate" means a general  
11 distinguishing number plate on which is displayed a registration  
12 number which contains a commonly recognized symbol that is  
13 randomly assigned, which symbol may include, but need not be  
14 limited to, a star, diamond or triangle;

15 (2) "Number plate" has the meaning provided in section 14-1 of the  
16 general statutes, as amended by this act; and

17 (3) "Registration number" has the meaning provided in section 14-1

18 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

19 (b) Not later than November 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Motor  
20 Vehicles shall design an enhanced recognition number plate, after  
21 consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
22 Protection, to improve the ability of children and other individuals to  
23 recall and describe to a law enforcement agency pursuant to an  
24 investigation the registration number displayed on a number plate  
25 observed by the child or individual. The commissioner shall issue such  
26 enhanced recognition number plates pursuant to section 3 of this act.

27 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2013*) (a) The Commissioner of  
28 Motor Vehicles shall issue enhanced recognition number plates for  
29 new registrations and renewal registrations issued on and after  
30 January 2, 2013, in accordance with a schedule established by the  
31 commissioner in such quantities as the commissioner deems feasible  
32 within the funds and personnel available. The commissioner shall  
33 issue such enhanced recognition number plates for passenger,  
34 combination and commercial registrations and other registrations for  
35 which general distinguishing number plates are issued. Each enhanced  
36 recognition number plate shall bear the words "Constitution State" and  
37 "Connecticut". The commissioner shall issue two enhanced recognition  
38 number plates for each registration. No enhanced recognition number  
39 plates shall be required for any registration for which special number  
40 plates are issued.

41 (b) No additional charge shall be made for the issuance of such new  
42 or replacement enhanced recognition number plates pursuant to this  
43 section.

44 (c) The owner or lessee of each registered motor vehicle who is  
45 issued two enhanced recognition number plates by the Commissioner  
46 of Motor Vehicles shall display such plates on such motor vehicle as  
47 provided in section 14-18 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
48 act. A violation of this subsection shall be an infraction.

49 Sec. 4. Section 14-18 of the general statutes is repealed and the

50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

51 (a) (1) Each motor vehicle for which one number plate has been  
52 issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway,  
53 display in a conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the number  
54 plate. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration  
55 date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on  
56 the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain  
57 the corresponding letters and numbers of the registration and number  
58 plate issued by the commissioner.

59 (2) Each motor vehicle for which two number plates have been  
60 issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway,  
61 display in a conspicuous place at the front and the rear of such vehicle  
62 the number plates. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the  
63 expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in  
64 such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker  
65 may contain the corresponding letters, [and] numbers and symbols of  
66 the number plate issued by the commissioner.

67 (b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

68 (c) Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall  
69 be entirely unobscured and the [numerals and] letters, numbers and  
70 symbols thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number  
71 plates shall be horizontal, and shall be fastened so as not to swing and,  
72 during the time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights, the  
73 rear number plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance  
74 of fifty feet. Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official  
75 number plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the  
76 visibility of any information on such number plates. Not more than  
77 one number plate shall be displayed on the front or rear of any motor  
78 vehicle in operation upon the public highways of the state; provided  
79 any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the commissioner, display  
80 more than one number plate in front or rear, subject to such conditions  
81 as the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate supplied by the

82 commissioner is lost, or if the registered number thereon becomes  
83 mutilated or illegible, the owner of or the person in control of the  
84 motor vehicle for which such number plate was furnished shall  
85 immediately place a temporary number plate bearing said registration  
86 number upon such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate shall  
87 conform to the regular number plate and shall be displayed as nearly  
88 as possible as herein provided for such regular number plate; and such  
89 owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of  
90 the number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply  
91 for a new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to  
92 operate with such temporary plate and shall supply new number  
93 plates upon payment of the fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a.  
94 Upon receipt of such new number plates and new certificate, the  
95 remaining old number plate, if any, and certificate shall be  
96 surrendered to the commissioner.

97 (d) All number plates shall be the property of the state and no title  
98 therein shall pass to any person registering a motor vehicle under the  
99 provisions of this chapter. The owner of any registered motor vehicle  
100 which is not reregistered at the end of a registration period shall,  
101 within ten days, return the number plates thereof to the commissioner.  
102 Any person who sells a motor vehicle pursuant to section 14-150 or 49-  
103 61 shall, within ten days of such sale, return to the commissioner any  
104 number plates displayed on the vehicle or which come into such  
105 person's possession in connection with such sale. When the  
106 commissioner issues a new type of number plate for use by all persons  
107 registering motor vehicles, the obsolete number plates shall become  
108 the property of the registrant upon the expiration date.

109 (e) The commissioner may issue a number plate inscribed with the  
110 legend "SAMPLE". Such number plate shall not be displayed on any  
111 motor vehicle or used as official registration marker plates. The  
112 commissioner may impose a fee for the issuance of such number plate.  
113 Such fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of manufacturing and  
114 issuing such number plate.

115 (f) No person shall wilfully damage or destroy any number plate.

116 (g) Violation of any provision of subsection (a), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of  
117 this section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	14-1(74)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	14-18

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Section 4 was added for consistency with the general statutes.

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*