

**Follow-up Report: Reviewing Eligibility for
Permanent License Plates Would
Strengthen State Oversight**



**Final Report to the Joint Legislative
Program Evaluation Oversight Committee**

Report Number 2011-07-02

May 9, 2012



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Legislative Services Office

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John W. Turcotte
Director

May 9, 2012

Senator Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr., Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee
Representative Julia Howard, Chair, Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

North Carolina General Assembly
Legislative Building
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Honorable Co-Chairs:

Session Law 2011-145 directed the Program Evaluation Division to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of passenger and non-passenger vehicles owned and operated by all State agencies and institutions. This report follows up the Program Evaluations Division's February 2012 report *Follow-up Analysis of Permanent License Plates Owned by State and Non-State Entities* and offers several recommendations to strengthen state oversight of permanent license plates issued to eligible non-state entities.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles cooperated with us fully during the follow-up review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Turcotte".

John W. Turcotte
Director



PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 2012

Report No. 2011-07-02

Follow-up Report: Reviewing Eligibility for Permanent License Plates Would Strengthen State Oversight

Summary

This report addresses two key concerns raised as a result of the Program Evaluation Division's February 2012 report entitled *Follow-up Analysis of Permanent License Plates Owned by State and Non-State Entities*:

- permanent silver license plates have been registered to entities not identified as eligible by statute; and
- the many different types of non-state entities eligible for silver license plates require review.

The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee requested the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to review permanent registrations to identify entities receiving unauthorized silver license plates. These permanent silver plates do not expire and are issued to governmental and non-governmental entities who pay a one-time fee of \$6 per vehicle. Of the 120,461 permanent silver license plates that had been issued as of the end of Fiscal Year 2010–11, the February 2012 Program Evaluation Division report identified 4,218 issued to privately owned businesses, higher education institutions, and other entities not specified in the statute. DMV identified several obstacles that inhibit its ability to ensure entities applying for permanent silver license plates actually qualify under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b) or other statutes.

- Ensuring non-state entities use a vehicle exclusively for the purpose specified in statute.
- Verifying whether non-state entities authorized to have permanent silver license plates still exist.
- A lack of statutory clarity about the eligibility of community colleges and ineligibility of telephone membership corporations.

To address these issues, four recommendations suggest action by the General Assembly.

- Consider limiting eligibility for permanent license plates to governmental entities and reviewing the basis for issuing permanent license plates to non-governmental entities.
- Direct DMV to cancel all permanent plates and reissue them to qualifying entities.
- Amend state law to require registration of all permanent license plates in the name of the eligible entity following a standard naming convention.
- Authorize DMV to revoke permanent license plates registered to entities that fail to obtain an annual vehicle inspection.

Scope

This report follows up the Program Evaluation Division's February 2012 report entitled *Follow-up Analysis of Permanent License Plates Owned by State and Non-State Entities*.

For the remainder of the report, permanent license plates registered to non-state entities are referred to as silver license plates and permanent license plates registered to state agencies and institutions are referred to as state-owned or yellow license plates.

This follow-up report addresses two key concerns raised as a result of the February 2012 report:

- permanent silver license plates have been registered to entities not identified as eligible by statute; and
- the many different types of non-state entities eligible for silver license plates require review.

Background

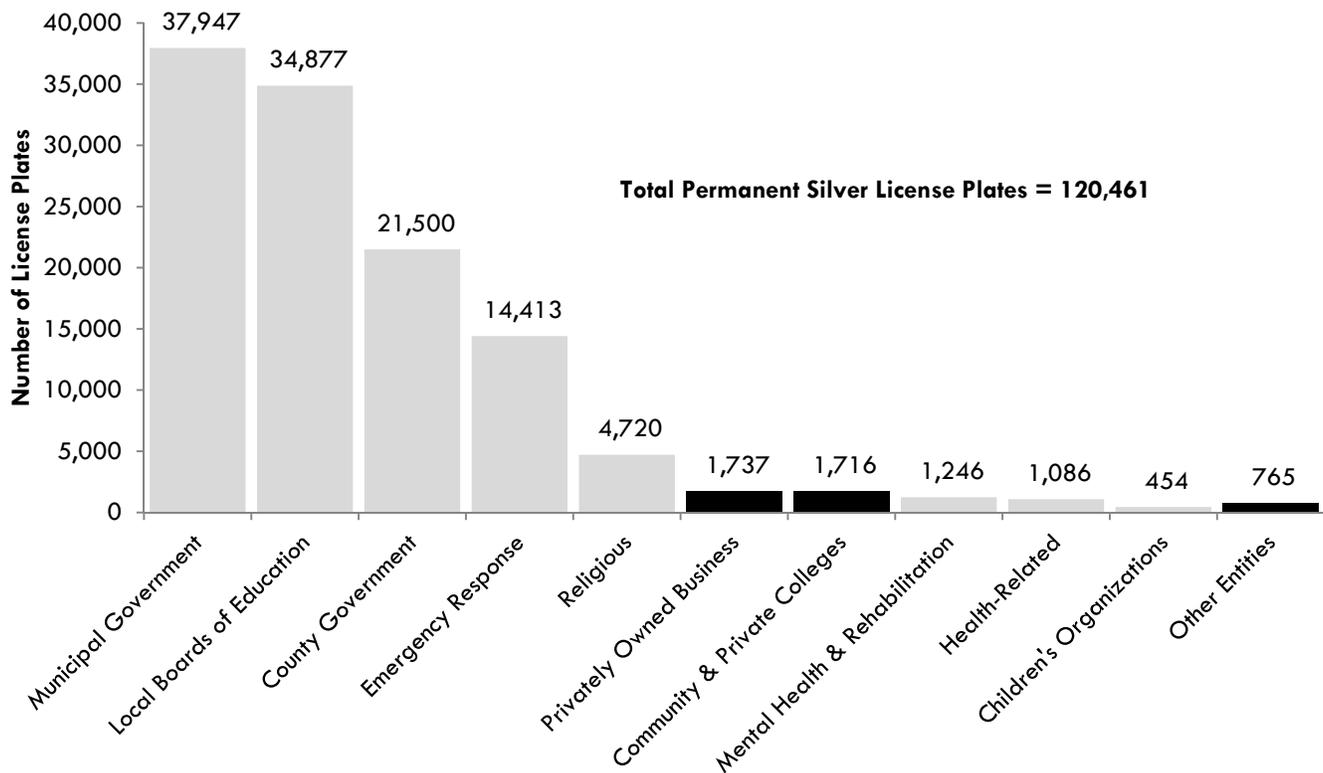
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b)(2)–(16) authorizes the Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue permanent and non-expiring silver plates to non-state entities including:

- local government entities, such as counties, cities, towns, and local boards of education;
- public safety and emergency management entities, such as civil air patrols, emergency rescue squads, Radio Emergency Association of Citizens Teams (REACT Teams), rural fire departments, and local chapters of the American Red Cross; and
- churches that own buses used exclusively to transport individuals to Sunday school, church services, and other church-related activities

Permanent license plates issued to non-state entities are silver with black lettering. To obtain a silver license plate, a person must provide proof of ownership that meets the statutory eligibility for receiving a permanent state license plate, provide proof of financial responsibility, and pay a one-time \$6 fee.

The Program Evaluation Division's February 2012 report identified 120,461 silver license plates registered to non-state entities at the end of Fiscal Year 2010–11. Exhibit 1 shows 94,324 silver license plates were registered to counties, municipalities, or local boards of education. However, 4,218 silver license plates were issued to privately owned businesses, higher education institutions, and other entities not specifically listed in the statute. These results suggested that DMV needed to review license plates issued to entities not listed in statute and the process for issuing silver license plates.

Exhibit 1: Permanent Silver License Plates by Type of Entity



Source: Program Evaluation Division based on vehicle registration records from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The Program Evaluation Division proposed the following legislative options to address the issues identified with silver license plates:

- direct DMV to strengthen policies and procedures to ensure only eligible entities can obtain permanent license plates;
- direct DMV to revoke silver license plates registered to entities not identified in statute;
- revise N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 to limit the types of entities eligible for silver license plates; and
- establish a renewal schedule procedure for silver license plates in order to monitor compliance with liability insurance and vehicle inspections.

At its February 14, 2012 meeting, the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee requested that DMV review permanent registrations to identify entities receiving unauthorized silver license plates. DMV issued a memorandum of their findings and recommendations on April 13, 2012 (see Appendix A). The current report reviews DMV's memorandum and makes recommendations for legislative action.

Division of Motor Vehicles' Review of Silver License Plates

The Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) examined the 4,218 silver license plates registered to entities not listed in statute and found that 1,037 of them were properly registered.

- 625 silver license plates issued were registered to qualifying entities under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b); and
- 412 silver license plates issued to telephone membership corporations qualified under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 117-33. This statute declares telephone membership corporations to be public agencies of the State, and as a result, makes these privately owned businesses eligible for permanent license plates.

During the reconciliation process, DMV encountered several obstacles that affect the Division's ability to ensure entities applying for silver license plates actually qualify under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b).

- **§ 20-84(b)(8).** This subsection allows a motor vehicle owned by a person and used exclusively in support of a disaster relief effort to have a silver license plate. However, no documentation exists that a person could provide to ensure a vehicle is being used specifically and solely for the purpose of disaster relief. Once the permanent plate is issued DMV cannot monitor the use of the vehicle.
- **§ 20-84(b)(13).** This subsection authorizes silver license plates for motor vehicles owned by a sheltered workshop recognized or approved by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. However, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not permanently approve or recognize these entities.¹ Several entities recognized as sheltered workshops during the 1970s and 1980s are no longer in business or no longer approved by DHHS, yet their silver license plates remain active. There is no way for DMV to know when these entities go out business or lose their recognition or contract with DHHS.
- **§ 20-84(b)(14).** Eligible entities must be a nonprofit agency or organization that provides transportation for or operates programs in accordance with the Commission for Mental Health and Human Services.² The qualifying entities for this subsection are the same entities covered under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b)(13). Several entities have active plates, but are no longer in business or are no longer approved by DHHS.
- **§ 20-84(b)(15).** A bus or trackless trolley owned by a city and operated under a franchise authorized to use city streets is eligible for a silver license plate. However, DMV identified several vehicles with silver license plates titled under the franchise name and could not confirm whether the city owned the vehicle.
- **§ 20-84(b)(16).** A trailer owned by a nationally chartered charitable organization and used exclusively for parades can receive a permanent silver license plate. However, DMV cannot verify if an applicant meets the criteria or monitor whether the trailer is being used exclusively for parades.

¹ The Department of Health and Human Services refers to sheltered workshops as Community Rehabilitation Programs.

² The Commission for Mental Health and Human Services is now referred to as the Commission on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

In addition, DMV noted the statutes are not clear as to whether North Carolina's community colleges are entities of state or local government. If they qualify as state entities, community colleges would be issued yellow license plates. If they qualify as local government entities, community colleges would receive silver license plates. Statutory clarification is needed to ensure the proper issuance of permanent license plates to community colleges.

Based on their review of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 and other statutes,³ DMV recommended in their April 13, 2012 memorandum that the General Assembly

- remove eligibility for vehicles used exclusively for disaster relief, sheltered workshops and entities overseen by the Commission for Mental Health and Human Services or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, buses and trackless trolleys, and trailers used exclusively for parades;
- consider whether orphanages, civil air patrols, churches, and mobile X-ray units for the diagnosis, treatment, and discovery of tuberculosis should continue to be authorized to receive permanent license plates;
- require all permanent license plates be registered in the name of an organization, not an individual;
- revise statutes to clarify whether local community colleges are eligible for silver or yellow license plates; and
- revise the statute to clarify that telephone membership corporations are not be eligible for permanent plates.

DMV also stated that it intends to cancel all existing silver license plates in the fall of 2012 and require vehicle owners to reapply for a permanent license plate if the vehicle still qualifies. The new permanent license plates will be a different color to ensure identification of cancelled plates. License plate fabrication costs approximately \$1.75 per plate. DMV estimates that the total re-issuance cost will be \$205,240. Because state law requires a \$6.00 registration fee for permanent plates, the re-issuance cost will be covered, and the Highway Fund will receive up to \$500,000 in non-recurring revenue depending on the number of permanent license plates re-issued.

Recommendations

In light of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) intention to reissue permanent license plates to non-state entities, the Program Evaluation Division offers several recommendations to strengthen state oversight of permanent license plates issued to eligible non-state entities.

Recommendation 1. The General Assembly should consider limiting eligibility for permanent license plates to governmental entities and reviewing the basis for issuing permanent license plates to non-governmental entities.

In 1937, the General Assembly authorized permanent license plates for state government, local government, and boards of education. Over the

³ N.C. Gen. Stat. §§115D, 117-33.

past 75 years, the General Assembly amended N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(b) numerous times to extend the privilege of permanent license plates to vehicles owned by non-governmental entities (see Appendix B). Exhibit 2 lists the governmental and non-governmental entities that are currently eligible to receive permanent license plates.

Exhibit 2: Entities Currently Eligible to Receive Permanent License Plates

Governmental Entities	Non-Governmental Entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State government • County, city, or town • Local board of education • Community college 	<p>Emergency Response Entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil air patrol • Incorporated emergency rescue squad • Rural fire department, agency, or association • Incorporated REACT (“Radio Emergency Association of Citizens Teams”) team • Owned by local chapter of the American Red Cross and used for emergency disaster relief <p>Health Related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile X-Ray unit used for diagnosis, treatment, or discovery of tuberculosis owned by the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, Inc. <p>Mental Health and Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheltered workshop recognized or approved by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services • Nonprofit agency or organization that operates programs subject to the approval of the Commission for Mental Health and Human Services <p>Children’s Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orphanage <p>Religious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church-owned bus used exclusively for transporting individuals to Sunday school, church services, or other church related activities <p>Privately Owned Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership telephone corporations (G.S. 117-33) <p>Other Entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owned by a person and used exclusively for disaster relief efforts • Bus or trackless trolley owned by a city and operated under a franchise authorizing the use of city streets • Trailer owned by a nationally chartered charitable organization and used exclusively for parades

Note: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 does not specify that vehicles owned by a community college are eligible for a permanent license plate, but the Division of Motor Vehicles issues permanent license plates for community college vehicles because they are considered a governmental entity. REACT Teams are now referred to as Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams.

Source: Program Evaluation Division based on review of North Carolina General Statues.

Extending the privilege of permanent license plates to non-governmental entities creates several concerns:

- Documentation that ensures that a vehicle is used for the specific purpose listed in the statute does not exist for some of the non-governmental entities.

- DMV cannot monitor how a vehicle is used once the plate is issued to ensure it is being used according to the statute.
- The Highway Fund loses revenue because entities eligible for permanent license plates pay a one-time \$6 fee instead of the annual \$28 fee for the standard license plate.

To address problems associated with issuing permanent license plates to non-governmental entities, the General Assembly should first consider limiting eligibility for permanent license plates to governmental entities: state government, counties, cities, towns, boards of education, and community colleges. For this purpose, community colleges should be added to the list of eligible governmental entities to clarify that vehicles used for administrative purposes are eligible for permanent license plates. Community college vehicles purchased with state equipment funds would continue to be state-owned as required by the State Board of Community Colleges and would receive yellow or state-owned license plates.

Second, the General Assembly should consider reviewing the basis for issuing permanent license plates to the non-governmental entities listed in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 and membership telephone corporations in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 117-33 (see Appendix C). These entities were added to the statute over many years; and as shown in the right-hand column of Exhibit 2, these non-governmental entities are a mix that defies a common definition. Potential criteria for determining whether a non-governmental entity should continue to receive a permanent license plate could include the following:

- whether the entity serves a public purpose;
- whether the entity provides services typically provided by government; and
- whether the entity is defined in state law.

As an example, both rural fire departments and incorporated emergency rescue squads would meet the criteria because both are clearly defined in statute and provide public safety services typically provided by local government.

If the General Assembly were to limit eligibility for permanent license plates to governmental entities, the Program Evaluation Division estimates this change would eliminate 23,161 permanent license plates. The non-governmental entities that no longer qualify would then apply for the standard North Carolina license plate for each vehicle and pay the \$28 annual registration fee. The estimated recurring revenue from eliminating these plates is \$650,000.

Recommendation 2. The General Assembly should direct the Division of Motor Vehicles to cancel all permanent plates registered to non-state entities and reissue permanent license plates to qualifying non-state entities by January 15, 2013.

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) stated in its memorandum that it intends to cancel all permanent license plates issued to non-state entities and require vehicle owners to reapply for a permanent license plate. To ensure that cancellation and reissuance of permanent license plates to non-

state entities occurs within a reasonable time frame, the General Assembly should direct DMV to complete this process by January 15, 2013.

Recommendation 3. The General Assembly should amend state law to require that all permanent license plates be registered in the name of an eligible entity and that entities receiving permanent license plates use a standard naming convention for their organization when registering vehicles.

During the analysis of registration records for permanent license plates, the Program Evaluation Division encountered multiple versions of names for state and non-state entities. The different names made it difficult to attribute a permanent license plate to the appropriate entity. The Program Evaluation Division also identified permanent plates registered to individuals. The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) stated that state law needs clarification to ensure permanent plates are registered in the name of an eligible entity.

To ensure entities receiving permanent license plates can be properly identified in DMV registration records and individuals do not receive permanent license plates, the General Assembly should amend N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 or other appropriate statutes to require that all permanent license plates be registered in the name of an eligible entity and entities receiving permanent license plates use a standard naming convention for their organization when registering their vehicles.

Recommendation 4. The General Assembly should authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to revoke permanent license plates registered to non-state entities that fail to obtain an annual vehicle inspection.

The Program Evaluation Division report entitled *Follow-up Analysis of Permanent License Plates Owned by State and Non-State Entities* reported 10,930 vehicles with permanent license plates had failed to obtain the required annual vehicle inspection. However, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can only place a hold on the registration record of the vehicle in violation of this requirement. To ensure vehicles with permanent license plates registered to non-state entities receive inspections, the General Assembly should authorize the DMV to revoke permanent license plates issued to non-state entities when the annual vehicle inspection is 90 or more days past due.

Appendices

Appendix A: Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles memorandum dated April 13, 2012

Appendix B: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 Permanent registration plates

Appendix C: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 117-33 Declared public agency of State; taxes and assessments

Program Evaluation Division Contact and Acknowledgments

For more information on this report, please contact the lead evaluator, Carol Shaw, at carol.shaw@ncleg.net.

Staff members who made key contributions to this report include Lee Creighton, Sean Hamel, Pamela L. Taylor, and Larry Yates. John W. Turcotte is the director of the Program Evaluation Division.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
 GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
 SECRETARY

April 13, 2012

TO: Sen. Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr., Co-chair
 Rep. Julia C. Howard, Co-chair
 Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

FROM: Johanna H. Reese
 Deputy Commissioner

RE: Non-state Government Permanent License Plates

On February 14, 2012 the Program Evaluation Division (PED) reported that of the 120,461 permanent (black & silver) plates issued to non-state entities 4,218 were issued to entities not listed in N.C.G.S. 20-84(b). As a result of these findings, the Division of Motor Vehicles examined these plates and found that 1,037 of them are properly registered to qualifying entities under G.S. 20-84 or other statutes.

27	Rural Fire Departments 20-84 (10)
26	Church Buses 20-84 (9)
38	Orphanages/Children's Homes 20-84 (4)
164	City Owned Buses 20-84 (15)
370	Sheltered Workshops/ CRPs 20-84 (13 & 14)
412	Telephone Membership Corps. G.S. 117-33*
1,037	Total

*G.S. 117-33 declares telephone membership corporations to be public agencies of the state and therefore eligible for the plates. There are eight telephone membership corporations in North Carolina with 412 permanent plates issued.

Twenty-eight permanent plates were issued prior to 1989 to handicapped individuals owning motorized wheel chairs or similar vehicles under G.S. 20-37.1. This law was repealed in 1989.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED TO:

NC DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
 OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
 3101 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
 RALEIGH NC 27699-3101

TELEPHONE: 919-861-3015

FAX: 919-733-0126

WEBSITE: WWW.NCDOT.ORG/DMV

LOCATION:

DMV HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
 1100 NEW BERN AVENUE
 RALEIGH NC

The Division of Motor Vehicles also found that 411 permanent plates are issued to various agencies of the state that should have been issued the permanent state-owned (black & yellow) plate.

There are 2,400 permanent plates issued to various North Carolina Community Colleges. While it is clear that vehicles assigned to the state community college system and board are eligible for permanent plates, they should have the yellow and black plates instead of silver and black. The statute is not clear as to whether local community colleges are entities of government, state or local. Clarification of G.S. 115D is required to ensure the proper issuance of permanent plates to the local community colleges.

During the reconciliation process several obstacles were discovered that affect the Division's ability to ensure those applying for these plates actually qualify under G.S. 20-84(b) or other statutes:

- (8) There is no documentation that a person could provide to ensure a vehicle is being used specifically and solely for the purpose of disaster relief. Once the permanent plate is issued there is no means to monitor the use of the vehicle.
- (13) The term "sheltered workshops" is no longer used by DHHS. These entities are now referred to as **Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP)**. These CRPs are not permanently approved and or recognized by DHHS. If the CRP goes out business or loses its recognition or contract with DHHS, DMV would not know, and the permanent plate would remain active. As of March 8, 2012, 193 entities would qualify for permanent plates under § 20-84(b)(13). These entities are a combination of both **non-profit and for-profit providers**. Additionally, we found that several entities recognized as sheltered workshops during the seventies and eighties are no longer in business or no longer approved by DHHS, yet these plates remain active.
- (14) The **Commission for Mental Health & Human Services** is now referred to as the **Commission on Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse**. The qualifying entities for this section would be the same as the 193 non-profit and for profit entities covered under § 20-84(13). Again, we found that several entities recognized or approved during the seventies and eighties are no longer in business or no longer approved by DHHS, yet the plates remain active.
- (15) The busses and trackless trollies would not be titled in a city's name but rather a franchise name and are not easily identifiable solely by name. There are some that Division staff cannot tell if the bus is owned by the city.
- (16) The Division cannot determine if an applicant is a nationally chartered charitable organization nor can the DMV determine if the in fact the trailer is being used exclusively for parades. Once the permanent plate is issued there is no means to monitor the use of the trailer.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED TO:

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LOCATION:

DMV HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
1100 NEW BERN AVENUE
RALEIGH NC

RESOLUTION

DMV will cancel all existing silver and black permanent plates by a date certain. Vehicle owners will be notified at the address in the record and provided with an application form to re-apply for a permanent plate if the vehicle qualifies. All vehicles with permanent plates must be registered in the name of the organization, not an individual. DMV will re-issue non-state permanent plates in a different color to ensure identification of cancelled plates. All non-state and non-local government vehicle owners will have to sign an affidavit that the vehicle use meets statutory requirements.

Manufacture of license plates cost approximately \$1.75 each. If all the license plates that are eligible now remain so, the cost of re-issuance will be about \$205,240. Statute requires a registration fee of \$6.00 for each permanent plate. Part of this fee could be appropriated to cover the cost of replacement. DMV will begin this process early next fall to allow for the possibility that the General Assembly may make changes to permanent plate eligibility requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DMV recommends the following changes to G.S. 20-84(b), which determines what entities are eligible for permanent plates.

- Remove eligibility for (8), vehicles used exclusively for disaster relief;
- Remove eligibility for (13) and (14), sheltered workshops and entities overseen by the Commission for Mental Health and Human Services or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation;
- Remove (15), busses and trackless trollies;
- Remove (16), trailers used exclusively for parades;
- Consider whether entities in categories (4, 5, 9, or 11) should continue to be authorized to receive permanent plates.
- Require all permanent plates to be registered in the name of an organization, not an individual.

In addition, DMV recommends statutory clarification on the following points:

- local community colleges are eligible for permanent plates;
- telephone membership corporations are not eligible for permanent plates.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 919-861-3015.

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Appendix B: Permanent Registration Plates

§ 20-84. Permanent registration plates; State Highway Patrol.

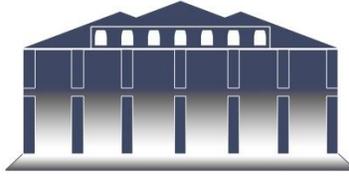
- (a) General. – The Division may issue a permanent registration plate for a motor vehicle owned by one of the persons authorized to have a permanent registration plate in this section. To obtain a permanent registration plate, a person must provide proof of ownership, provide proof of financial responsibility as required by G.S. 20-309, and pay a fee of six dollars (\$6.00). A permanent plate issued under this section may be transferred as provided in G.S. 20-78 to a replacement vehicle of the same classification. A permanent registration plate issued under this section must be a distinctive color and bear the word "permanent". In addition, a permanent registration plate issued under subdivision (b)(1) of this section must have distinctive color and design that is readily distinguishable from all other permanent registration plates issued under this section.
- (b) Permanent Registration Plates. – The Division may issue permanent plates for the following motor vehicles:
- (1) A motor vehicle owned by the State or one of its agencies.
 - (2) A motor vehicle owned by a county, city or town.
 - (3) A motor vehicle owned by a board of education.
 - (4) A motor vehicle owned by an orphanage.
 - (5) A motor vehicle owned by the civil air patrol.
 - (6) A motor vehicle owned by an incorporated emergency rescue squad.
 - (7) A motor vehicle owned by an incorporated REACT ("Radio Emergency Association of Citizen Teams") Team.
 - (8) A motor vehicle owned by a person and used exclusively in the support of a disaster relief effort.
 - (9) A bus owned by a church and used exclusively for transporting individuals to Sunday school, to church services, and to other church related activities.
 - (10) A motor vehicle owned by a rural fire department, agency, or association.
 - (11) A motor vehicle in the form of a mobile X-ray unit operated exclusively in this State for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, and discovery of tuberculosis, and owned by the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, Incorporated, or by a local chapter or association of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, Incorporated.
 - (12) A motor vehicle owned by a local chapter of the American National Red Cross and used for emergency or disaster work.
 - (13) A motor vehicle owned by a sheltered workshop recognized or approved by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
 - (14) A motor vehicle owned by a nonprofit agency or organization that provides transportation for or operates programs subject to and approved in accordance with standards adopted by the Commission for Mental Health and Human Services.
 - (15) A bus or trackless trolley owned by a city and operated under a franchise authorizing the use of city streets. This subdivision does not apply to a bus or trackless trolley operated under a franchise authorizing an intercity operation.
 - (16) A trailer owned by a nationally chartered charitable organization and used exclusively for parade floats and for transporting vehicles and structures used only in parades.
- (c) State Highway Patrol. – In lieu of all other registration requirements, the Commissioner shall each year assign to the State Highway Patrol, upon payment of six dollars (\$6.00) per registration plate, a sufficient number of regular registration plates of the same letter prefix and in numerical sequence beginning with number 100 to meet the requirements of the State Highway Patrol for use on Division vehicles assigned to the State Highway Patrol. The commander of the Patrol shall, when such plates are assigned, issue to each member of the State Highway Patrol a registration plate for use upon the Division vehicle assigned to the member pursuant to G.S. 20-190 and

assign a registration plate to each Division service vehicle operated by the Patrol. An index of such assignments of registration plates shall be kept at each State Highway Patrol radio station and a copy of it shall be furnished to the registration division of the Division. Information as to the individual assignments of the registration plates shall be made available to the public upon request to the same extent and in the same manner as regular registration information. The commander, when necessary, may reassign registration plates provided that the reassignment shall appear upon the index required under this subsection within 20 days after the reassignment.

Appendix C: Telephone Membership Corporations

§ 117-33. Declared public agency of State; taxes and assessments.

A telephone membership corporation heretofore or hereafter organized under this Article shall be, and is hereby declared to be a public agency, and shall have within its limits for which it was formed the same rights as any other political subdivision of the State, and all property owned by said telephone membership corporation and used exclusively for the purpose of said corporation shall be held in the same manner and subject to the same taxes and assessments as property owned by any county or municipality of the State so long as said property is owned by said telephone membership corporation and is used for the purposes for which the corporation was formed.



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