

HOUSE BILL NO. 213

INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING DISPLAY OF A SINGLE LICENSE PLATE ON CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING THAT A MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURED WITHOUT A MEANS TO DISPLAY A FRONT LICENSE PLATE MAY DISPLAY A SINGLE LICENSE PLATE; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-3-301, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-301. Registration -- license plate required -- display. (1) (a) ~~Except as provided in 61-4-120, 61-4-129, and subsection (1)(b) of this section, a~~ A person may not operate a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer upon the public highways of Montana unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is properly registered and has the proper license plates conspicuously displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer. A license plate must be securely fastened to prevent it from swinging and may not be obstructed from plain view.

~~(b) A motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer must have a single license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle. A custom vehicle or street rod registered under 61-3-320(1)(b) or (1)(c)(iii) may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the custom vehicle or street rod. All other~~

(b) (i) Except as provided in 61-4-120, 61-4-129, and subsections (1)(b)(ii) through (1)(b)(iv) of this section, all motor vehicles must have one license plate displayed on the front and one license plate displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle.

(ii) A motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer must have a single license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

(iii) A custom vehicle or street rod registered under 61-3-320(1)(b) or (1)(c)(iii) may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the custom vehicle or street rod.

(iv) A motor vehicle that was originally manufactured without a bracket, device, or other means to display and secure a front license plate and for which the manufacturer provided no other means or method to display



1 and secure a front license plate may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the motor
2 vehicle.

3 (c) A person may not display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer at the
4 same time a number assigned to it under any motor vehicle law except as provided in this chapter.

5 (d) A low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's
6 license must have special license plates, as provided in 61-3-332(9), displayed on the front and rear of the
7 vehicle.

8 (2) A person may not purchase or display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel
9 trailer a license plate bearing the number assigned to any county, as provided in 61-3-332, other than the county
10 where the vehicle is domiciled or the county where the trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is domiciled
11 at the time of application for registration.

12 (3) It is unlawful to:

13 (a) display license plates issued to one motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer on
14 any other motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer unless legally transferred as provided by
15 statute; or

16 (b) repaint old license plates to resemble current license plates.

17 (4) For the purposes of this section, "conspicuously displayed" means that the required license plates
18 are obviously visible and firmly attached to:

19 (a) the front bumper and the rear bumper of a motor vehicle that is subject to subsection (1)(b)(i) and
20 is equipped with front and rear bumpers, except for a custom vehicle or street rod as provided in subsection
21 (1)(b); or

22 (b) a clearly visible location on the rear of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, ~~or~~ travel trailer, or motor
23 vehicle that is subject to subsections (1)(b)(ii) through (1)(b)(iv)."

24 - END -