



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-84.

Permanent registration plates; State Highway Patrol.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2024-57, s. 3E.2(g) — twenty-sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:04 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT b4322388975f43faa8dac9a5 - 967837eed05271fc151fbd0f - a09ca1d40c2b4132
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§ 20-84(a) General. - The Division may issue a permanent registration plate for a motor vehicle owned by one of the entities authorized to have a permanent registration plate in this section. To obtain a permanent registration plate, an authorized representative of the entity 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. Every eligible entity that receives a permanent registration plate under this section shall ensure that the permanent registration plate is registered under a single name. That single name shall be the full legal name of the eligible entity.

§ 20-84(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.

- (3a) A motor vehicle that is owned and exclusively operated by a nonprofit corporation authorized under G.S. 115C-218.5 to operate a charter school and identified by a permanent decal or painted marking disclosing the name of the nonprofit corporation. The motor vehicle shall only be used for student transportation and official charter school related activities.
- (4) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (5) A motor vehicle owned by the civil air patrol.
- (6) A motor vehicle owned by an incorporated emergency rescue squad.
- (7) through (9) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (10) A motor vehicle owned by a rural fire department, agency, or association.
- (11) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (12) A motor vehicle owned by a local chapter of the American National Red Cross and used for emergency or disaster work.
- (13) through (16) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (17) A motor vehicle owned by a community college. A community college vehicle purchased with State equipment funds shall be issued a permanent registration plate with the same distinctive color and design as a permanent registration plate issued under subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (18) A motor vehicle that is owned and operated by a sanitary district created under Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.
- (19) Any motor vehicle owned by a federally recognized tribe.
- (20) A motor vehicle owned by a public transportation service provider that is a designated recipient or direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration formula grant funds pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5311 or 49 U.S.C. § 5307.

§ 20-84(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. 143B-1720 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.

§ 20-84(d)

Revocation. - The Division may revoke all permanent registration plates issued to eligible entities for vehicles that are 90 days or more past due for a vehicle inspection, as required by G.S. 20-183.4C. This subsection does not limit or restrict the authority of the Division to revoke permanent registration plates pursuant to other applicable law.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
26 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1937	c. 407, s. 48	ENACTED
02	1939	c. 275	AMENDED
03	1949	c. 583, s. 1	AMENDED
04	1951	c. 388	AMENDED
05	1953	c. 1264	AMENDED
06	1955	cc. 368, 382	AMENDED
07	1967	c. 284	AMENDED
08	1969	c. 800	AMENDED
09	1971	c. 460, s. 1	AMENDED

10	1975	c. 548	AMENDED
11	1975	c. 716, s. 5	AMENDED
12	1977	c. 370, s. 1	AMENDED
13	1979	c. 801, s. 9	AMENDED
14	1979	1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1159	AMENDED
15	1983	c. 593, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
16	1983	1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 885	AMENDED
17	1983	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 11	AMENDED
18	1997	S.L. 1997-443, s. 11A.118(a)	AMENDED
19	1999	S.L. 1999-220, s. 3	AMENDED
20	2000	S.L. 2000-159, s. 7	AMENDED
21	2012	S.L. 2012-159, s. 1	AMENDED
22	2014	S.L. 2014-101, s. 6.6(a)	AMENDED
23	2014	S.L. 2014-108, s. 3(a)	AMENDED
24	2015	S.L. 2015-241, s. 29.40(r)	AMENDED
25	2016	S.L. 2016-94, s. 35.16	AMENDED
26	2024	S.L. 2024-57, s. 3E.2(g)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-309	(a)	"of financial responsibility as required by"
G.S. 20-78	(a)	"may be transferred as provided in"
G.S. 115C-218.5	(b)(3a)	"by a nonprofit corporation authorized under"
G.S. 143B-1720	(c)	"assigned to the member pursuant to"
G.S. 20-183.4C	(d)	"a vehicle inspection, as required by"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84 (2024).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-84(a) (2024).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1937, c. 407, s. 48; 1939, c. 275; 1949, c. 583, s. 1; 1951, c. 388; 1953, c. 1264; 1955, cc. 368, 382; 1967, c. 284; 1969, c. 800; 1971, c. 460, s. 1; 1975, c. 548; c. 716, s. 5; 1977, c. 370, s. 1; 1979, c. 801, s. 9; 1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1159; 1983, c. 593, ss. 1, 2; 1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 885; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 11; 1997-443, s. 11A.118(a); 1999-220, s. 3; 2000-159, s. 7; 2012-159, s. 1; 2014-101, s. 6.6(a); 2014-108, s. 3(a); 2015-241, s. 29.40(r); 2016-94, s. 35.16; 2024-57, s. 3E.2(g).)

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