



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2804		DATE: 3/14/2024
COMMITTEE: Transportation Accountability		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/14/2024 12:39 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am in Support of this Bill. There are pros and cons to going to one (1) License Plate.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHIEF ROBERT RONKOSKI		PHONE NUMBER: 636-922-8604	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION - MPOA		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 101 WEST MCCARTY STREET, SUITE-200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: bobronkoski@mopoa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 10:27 PM	

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Greetings members of the Transportation Accountability Committee. I am submitting this form in opposition to proposed changes to the Revised Statutes of Missouri Chapter 301. I am representing the Missouri Peace Officers Association (MPOA) where I serve as the Executive Director. I also have over 40 years of experience as a police officer and command officer in Missouri. The Missouri Peace Officers Association does not support the removal of the front plate because of the negative impact that it will have on the safety of Missouri citizens. The financial savings to the state is not worth compromising public safety. Front and rear license plates are essential in the quick identification of motor vehicles. The proposed changes, the removal of the requirement of a front license plate would reduce the ability of citizens, victims, and law enforcement officers to effectively identify vehicles or invalid vehicle registrations. It would severely hinder the ability of law enforcement officers to solve certain crimes. Please take into consideration these facts:

- Security cameras at businesses and private residences typically capture a front license plate.
- Removing the front license plate makes it easier for criminals to avoid apprehension.
- School bus cameras capture the front plates of vehicles when there is a stop arm violation.
- 70% of all serious crimes involve a motor vehicle in the United States. This includes kidnapping, violent crime, major theft, drug smuggling, and much more (IACP).
- Missouri license plates are designed to assist law enforcement in easily identifying the month and year of expiration as a vehicle travels past them, even at highway speeds.
- Front license plates have been instrumental in the apprehension of violent criminals and the recovery of missing and abducted children.
- Due to the mounting location and their reflectiveness, front license plates provide officers and other EMS personnel a proximity reference when approaching vehicles while conducting traffic stops, working traffic crash scenes, and rendering aid to stranded motorists at night or in inclement weather. This increases the safety for all involved.
- Missouri is one of 31 states which require passenger motor vehicles and trucks under 18,000 pounds, to display two license plates.
- Any savings to DOR will not be passed along to the citizens of Missouri.
- Special interest groups that want to avoid mounting a license plate to the front of their sports car simply for the sporty look of the car should not take precedence over Missouri residents that rely on their local police to keep them safe.
- The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators supports states requiring vehicles having a front license plate.
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police supports states requiring vehicles having a front license plate.
- Many serious crimes have been solved by law enforcement such as armed robberies, 1st degree assaults, and kidnapping. Please do not take this valuable investigative tool away from law enforcement officers and the law-abiding citizens in our state.

Chief Robert Ronkoski
Executive Director, MPOA



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY GIDDENS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6203	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: nancy@thegiddensgroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/13/2024 4:51 PM	
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