



Department of Motor Vehicles

6 EMPIRE STATE PLAZA • ALBANY, NY 12228

"P" 23 (2021)

"M" 25 (2021)

Albany, New York

October 29, 2021

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 451 of the Laws of 2021-Increased Fines for Concealed/Obscured/
Distorted/Obstructed License Plates

Effective November 1, 2021, Chapter 451 of the Laws of 2021 amends paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) and amends subdivision (8) of section 402 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) to increase the fine for knowingly covering or coating license plates with material or substance that conceals/obscures/distorts the plates under new subparagraph (b)(1)(ii)] and for obstructing the view of the plates by any part of the vehicle or anything carried thereon under new subparagraph (b)(1)(iii)].

A violation of VTL §402(1)(b)(ii) or VTL §402(1)(b)(iii) is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50, nor more than \$300.

A copy of Chapter 451 of the Laws of 2021 is attached for reference.

Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.

Mark J.F. Schroeder
Commissioner

Attachment

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2021

CHAPTER 451

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to penalties for purposefully obstructed license plates

Became a law October 8, 2021, with the approval of the Governor.
Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 and subdivision 8 of section 402 of the vehicle and traffic law, paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 109 of the laws of 2005, and subdivision 8 as amended by chapter 61 of the laws of 1989 and as renumbered by chapter 648 of the laws of 2006, are amended to read as follows:

(b) **(i)** Number plates shall be kept clean and in a condition so as to be easily readable and shall not be covered by glass or any plastic material[, and].

(ii) **Number plates** shall not be knowingly covered or coated with any artificial or synthetic material or substance that conceals or obscures such number plates or that distorts a recorded or photographic image of such number plates[, and the].

(iii) **The** view of such number plates shall not be obstructed by any part of the vehicle or by anything carried thereon, except for a receiver-transmitter issued by a publicly owned tolling facility in connection with electronic toll collection when such receiver-transmitter is affixed to the exterior of a vehicle in accordance with mounting instructions provided by the tolling facility.

8. [The] **A** violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than two hundred dollars, **except that a violation of subparagraph (ii) or subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than three hundred dollars.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law.

The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK **ss:**

Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such section, is entitled to be read into evidence.

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS
Temporary President of the Senate

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker of the Assembly