

S.127; VERMONT STRONG

A. Language in Early Versions of Misc MV Bill

Sec. #. VERMONT STRONG MOTOR VEHICLE PLATES

(a) In 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 1, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 13, the General Assembly authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles to distribute “Vermont Strong” commemorative plates and authorized operators of certain Vermont-registered vehicles to display the commemorative plates over the regular front registration plates of such vehicles until June 30, 2014. In 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 189, Sec. 26, the authorized display period was extended to June 30, 2016.

(b) Through an executive order issued on June 2, 2016, No. 3–74, the Governor ordered and directed that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles continue to permit Vermonters to display Vermont Strong plates on the front of eligible vehicles and that Vermont law enforcement officers refrain from ticketing or otherwise penalizing any Vermonter for displaying a Vermont Strong plate on eligible vehicles “until the General Assembly next has the opportunity to consider and clarify the duration of Vermont Strong Commemorative License Plates.”

(c) Under 23 V.S.A. § 511(a), “A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the Commissioner may require.” The Commissioner has implemented this authority through a regulation, CVR 14-050-025, which states, “Two registration plates are issued to and must be displayed by all registered vehicles” with the exception of certain listed vehicles. The listed exceptions do not include pleasure cars or motor trucks, which therefore are required to display two registration plates unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) This subsection supersedes Executive Order 3–74. The display of Vermont Strong commemorative plates in place of front registration plates no longer is authorized. On and after July 1, 2017, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement officers shall enforce the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 511(a) and CVR 14-050-025 that require the display of two registration plates on pleasure cars and on motor trucks. Prior to July 1, 2017, the Commissioner shall take measures to raise public awareness that the display of Vermont Strong commemorative plates in place of front registration plates no longer is authorized.

B. Corcoran; Vermont Strong Alternative Language

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(b) Through an executive order issued on June 2, 2016, No. 3–74, the Governor ordered and directed that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles continue to permit Vermonters to display Vermont Strong plates on the front of eligible vehicles and that Vermont law enforcement officers refrain from ticketing or otherwise penalizing any Vermonter for displaying a Vermont Strong plate on eligible vehicles.

(c) If the Governor rescinds Executive Order 3–74:

(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall take measures to raise public awareness that the display of Vermont Strong commemorative plates in place of front registration plates no longer is authorized and that enforcement will commence as of the date specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) Starting 60 days after the Governor rescinds Executive Order 3–74, if a Vermont registered vehicle displays a Vermont Strong plate, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement officers shall enforce the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 511(a) and CVR 14-050-025 that require the display of two registration plates on pleasure cars and on motor trucks registered in Vermont. Such enforcement shall not commence prior to this date.