**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**A51, R59, S620**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Verdin

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Introduced in the Senate on April 16, 2013

Introduced in the House on April 23, 2013

Passed by the General Assembly on May 29, 2013

Governor's Action: June 7, 2013, Signed

Summary: License plates

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

4/16/2013 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-16-13.docx))

4/16/2013 Senate Referred to Committee on **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-16-13.docx))

4/17/2013 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-17-13.docx))

4/18/2013 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-18-13.docx))

4/18/2013 Senate Roll call Ayes‑43 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-18-13.docx))

4/18/2013 Scrivener's error corrected

4/23/2013 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2013\04-23-13.docx))

4/23/2013 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 114](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\04-23-13.docx))

4/23/2013 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 114](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\04-23-13.docx))

5/22/2013 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\05-22-13.docx))

5/28/2013 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\05-28-13.docx))

5/28/2013 House Roll call Yeas‑106 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\05-28-13.docx))

5/29/2013 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2013\05-29-13.docx))

6/4/2013 Ratified R 59

6/7/2013 Signed By Governor

6/18/2013 Effective date 06/07/13

6/18/2013 Act No. 51

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/16/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\620_20130416.docx)

[4/17/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\620_20130417.docx)

[4/18/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\620_20130418.docx)

[5/22/2013](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\620_20130522.docx)

(A51, R59, S620)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑2335, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LICENSE PLATES, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE MANUFACTURE AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSMISSIONS IN THIS STATE AS A PART OF THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM “RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS”, TO INCLUDE A PERSON OR COMPANY IN THE BUSINESS OF OPERATING A GROUP OF VEHICLES DRIVEN BY THEIR EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING AND EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS’ TRANSMISSIONS AS A PART OF THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM “CONTRACTED FLEET OWNER”, TO DEFINE THE TERM “TRANSMISSIONS”, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES MAY ISSUE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LICENSE PLATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING AND EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS’ TRANSMISSIONS ON A MOTOR VEHICLE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF VEHICLES OWNED BY A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING AND EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS’ TRANSMISSIONS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS OR CONTRACTED FLEET OWNER TO TAKE ANY OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED BY ANOTHER STATE THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS OR CONTRACTED FLEET OWNER, TO LEGALLY TEST AND EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS’ TRANSMISSIONS IN THAT STATE.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Research and development license plates**

SECTION 1. Section 56‑3‑2335 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 15 of 2011, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑2335. (A) As used in this section:

(1) ‘Research and development business’ or ‘business’ means a person who manufacturers tires or transmissions in this State for use as original or replacement equipment on motor vehicles and who conducts research and development activities on tires or transmissions in conjunction with the person’s manufacturing activities in South Carolina.

(2) ‘Contracted fleet owner’ or ‘contractor’ means a person or company in the business of operating a group of vehicles driven by their employees for the purpose of testing and evaluating the performance of a research and development business’ tires or transmissions.

(3) ‘Tires’ includes tires and tire replacement parts.

(4) ‘Transmissions’ includes transmissions and transmission parts.

(B)(1) Upon application and payment of the required fee, the Department of Motor Vehicles may issue research and development license plates to a research and development business. The license plates must be used exclusively on motor vehicles, including motorcycles, provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer to the research and development business for the purpose of testing and evaluating the performance of the research and development business’ tires or transmissions on the motor vehicle.

(2) Application for research and development license plates must be made by the research and development business on a form prescribed by the department and submitted with proof of the applicant’s status as a bona fide research and development business. The cost of each research and development license plate issued is two hundred dollars, of which one hundred sixty dollars must be remitted by the department to the county in which the testing facility of the business is located. Each plate is valid for two years. A maximum of one hundred research and development license plates may be issued for the two‑year period.

(C)(1) Upon application and payment of the required fee, the Department of Motor Vehicles may issue fleet research and development plates to a research and development business or to a contracted fleet owner. The license plates will be registered to a specific vehicle owned by the research and development business, or owned by a contracted fleet owner under contract with the research and development business.

(2) Application for fleet research and development license plates must be made by the contractor on a form prescribed by the department and submitted with certification from the research and development business establishing the applicant’s status as a bona fide contracted fleet owner under contract with the research and development business. The cost of each fleet research and development license plate is two hundred dollars, of which one hundred sixty dollars must be remitted by the department to the county in which the vehicle is sited, as evidenced by the address on the registration card. Each plate is valid for two years. A maximum of one hundred fleet research and development license plates may be issued to a contracted fleet owner for the two‑year period.

(D) Vehicles with research and development plates or fleet research and development plates may be operated on the state’s streets and highways or another state’s streets and highways pursuant to a reciprocity agreement with that state. The vehicles may be operated pursuant to this section only for the purpose of testing and evaluating the performance of the research and development business’ tires or transmissions on the motor vehicle.

(E) The Department of Motor Vehicles may enter into reciprocal agreements with other states concerning the registration and operation of vehicles owned by a research and development business, provided to the research and development business by a contractor under contract with the research and development business, or provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer to the research and development business for the purpose of testing and evaluating the performance of the research and development business’ tires or transmissions.

(F) It is the sole responsibility of the research and development business, or contracted fleet owner, to take any other actions required by another state that are necessary for the research and development business, or contracted fleet owner, to legally test and evaluate the performance of the research and development business’ tires or transmissions in that state. The research and development business must comply with any other requirements associated with the operation of the vehicle on the other state’s roads and highways.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 4th day of June, 2013.

Approved the 7th day of June, 2013.

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