**South Carolina General Assembly**

122nd Session, 2017-2018

**A57, R85, S488**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Grooms, Johnson, Campbell, Climer, Campsen, Peeler, Reese and Shealy

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 3937

Introduced in the Senate on February 28, 2017

Introduced in the House on April 4, 2017

Last Amended on March 29, 2017

Passed by the General Assembly on May 10, 2017

Governor's Action: May 19, 2017, Signed

Summary: Dealer license and demonstration plates

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/28/2017 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\sj\20170228.docx))

2/28/2017 Senate Referred to Committee on **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\sj\20170228.docx))

3/21/2017 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj\20170321.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Roll call Ayes‑36 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

3/30/2017 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\sj\20170330.docx))

3/31/2017 Scrivener's error corrected

4/4/2017 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\hj\20170404.docx))

4/4/2017 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\hj\20170404.docx))

5/4/2017 House Recalled from Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 44](file:///h:\hj\20170504.docx))

5/9/2017 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 101](file:///h:\hj\20170509.docx))

5/9/2017 House Roll call Yeas‑98 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 102](file:///h:\hj\20170509.docx))

5/10/2017 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\hj\20170510.docx))

5/10/2017 Scrivener's error corrected

5/15/2017 Ratified R 85

5/19/2017 Signed By Governor

5/26/2017 Effective date 5/19/17

5/31/2017 Act No. 57

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=488&session=122&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/28/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\488_20170228.docx)

[3/21/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\488_20170321.docx)

[3/29/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\488_20170329.docx)

[3/31/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\488_20170331.docx)

[5/4/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\488_20170504.docx)

(A57, R85, S488)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑2320, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LICENSE PLATES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A DEALER LICENSE PLATE MAY BE USED BY A PERSON WHOSE VEHICLE IS BEING SERVICED OR REPAIRED BY THE DEALERSHIP, PROVIDED THE VEHICLE DISPLAYING THE LICENSE PLATE IS PART OF A MANUFACTURER PROGRAM AND THE PLATE IS GIVEN TO THE PERSON BY THE DEALER AT NO CHARGE TO THE CONSUMER FOR NOT MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A DEALER MAY BE ISSUED TWO PLATES FOR THE FIRST FIFTEEN VEHICLES SOLD DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR AND A DEALER PARTICIPATING IN A MANUFACTURER PROGRAM MAY BE ISSUED TWO ADDITIONAL PLATES FOR EACH FIFTEEN VEHICLES SOLD BEYOND THE INITIAL TWENTY DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR.**

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

**Dealer license plates**

SECTION 1. Section 56‑3‑2320(A) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 253 of 2012, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑2320. (A)(1) Upon application being made and the required fee being paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the department may issue dealer license plates to a licensed motor vehicle dealer. The license plates, notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter to the contrary, may be used exclusively on motor vehicles owned by, assigned, or loaned for test driving purposes to the dealer when operated on the highways of this State by the dealer, its corporate officers, its employees, a prospective purchaser of the motor vehicle, or a person whose vehicle is being serviced or repaired by the dealer. The use by a prospective purchaser is limited to seven days, and the dealer shall provide the prospective purchaser with a dated demonstration certificate. A dealer license plate may be used by a person whose vehicle is being serviced or repaired by the dealership, provided that the vehicle displaying the license plate is part of a manufacturer program and given to the person by the dealer at no charge to the consumer. The use of a dealer license plate by the consumer for service and repair is limited to thirty days. The demonstration certificate for a prospective customer must be approved by the department. Dealer plates must not be used to operate wreckers or service vehicles in use by the dealer nor to operate vehicles owned by the dealer that are leased or rented by the public. No dealer plates may be issued by the department unless the dealer furnishes proof in a form acceptable to the department that he has a retail business license as required by Chapter 36, Title 12 and has made at least twenty sales of motor vehicles in the twelve months preceding his application for a dealer plate. The sales requirement may be waived by the department if the dealer has been licensed for less than one year. For purposes of this section, the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle between the same individual or corporation more than one time is considered as only one sale. Multiple transfer of motor vehicles between licensed dealers for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements for motor vehicle dealer plates is prohibited.

(2) A dealer may be issued two plates for the first fifteen vehicles sold during the preceding year and one additional plate for each fifteen vehicles sold beyond the initial twenty during the preceding year. A dealer participating in a manufacturer program may be issued two additional plates for each fifteen vehicles sold beyond the initial twenty during the preceding year. For good cause shown, the department in its discretion may issue extra plates. If the dealer has been licensed less than one year, the department shall issue a number of license plates based on an estimated number of sales for the coming year. The department may increase or decrease the number of plates issued based on actual sales made.

(3) The cost of each dealer plate issued is twenty dollars.

(4) Upon application to the department, a public or private school, college, or university, the United Service Organization South Carolina, the American Red Cross, or an economic development entity created or sanctioned by the county where the entity is located, may be issued a license plate to be used on vehicles loaned or rented to the school, college, university, the United Service Organization South Carolina, the American Red Cross, or economic development entity by a licensed motor vehicle dealer. The plate must be a personalized plate designed by the department. The cost of each plate issued is two hundred dollars, of which one hundred sixty dollars must be remitted by the department to the county in which the school, college, university, chapter of the United Service Organization South Carolina, chapter of the American Red Cross, or economic development entity is located. Each plate is valid for two years, and there is no limit on the number of plates which may be issued, except in the case of an economic development entity where only one plate per entity is allowed.

(5) A dealer license plate is allowed on a motor vehicle which the dealer lends to a public or private school for use in a driver education program. A plate used for this purpose may be obtained without fee and without regard to the limit on plates issued pursuant to this section. When the motor vehicle is no longer used for driver education, the dealer shall surrender the plate to the department.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a dealer exclusively selling heavy duty trucks at retail is eligible to obtain license plates for exclusive use on the heavy duty trucks regardless of the number of trucks sold by him during the preceding required number of months. These license plates for trucks must be noted with a distinct and separate identification and used only on heavy duty trucks. For purposes of this section, heavy duty trucks include trucks having a gross vehicle weight of sixteen thousand pounds or greater.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 15th day of May, 2017.

Approved the 19th day of May, 2017.

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