

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN J. MCCABE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE DISTRICT 8

SESSION
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2679
Toll Free: (800) 505-2678



DISTRICT
600 E. Railroad Ave., Suite 1
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: (907) 376-2679
Toll Free: (800) 505-2678

HB 166\Ver. A **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

“An Act relating to the issuance of vehicle registration plates.”

HB166 would direct the DMV to reduce issuance of the number of vehicle license plates from two to one rear plate.

HB166's main focus is the cost savings to the State of Alaska's budget. It would conserve resources of many departments and bring Alaska in line with other states moving to a single plate requirement. As of today, twenty other states no longer require vehicles to have a license plate mounted on the front. Nebraska and Iowa are in the midst of doing the same for their residents.

The manufacturers of many new gas-powered vehicles do not provide a location to put a plate on the front bumpers. New, important safety technology such as proximity and traffic sensors are present on the front grills of modern cars which can be obstructed and damaged by attempts to install a front plate. Removing the front plate maintains a car's health by allowing the designed airflow to occur, thereby meeting the component cooling requirements. Eliminating front plates protects the aesthetic contours of the vehicle. With new electric vehicles, the most noticeable difference is the elimination of the grill. Their front ends are not only packed with sensor technology, they require far less ventilation which allows the manufacturer to increase the overall size of the interior of the vehicle in leg room for passengers or larger storage and trunk areas. Custom and classic cars simply did not come with a provision for a front plate.

The single plate and registration tab will still be required on the rear of the vehicle thereby continuing to assist law enforcement officers in their public safety work. The rear plate and registration tab will remain visible to the human eye, bodycams, dashboard cams, security cameras and other personal video surveillance systems. Alaska is known for its strong police-community relationship and this bill will further protect residents, law enforcement and their mutual trust from any incident that might escalate from a no front plate violation.

In Alaska's precarious budget situation, it is more important than ever to trim the budget where we can and ensure our state's fiscal health in years to come. Let's make common sense changes such as outlined in HB166 that will provide for even the smaller budget cost-saving measures.