

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7797

To provide certain requirements and guidance relating to license plate readability, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2026

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide certain requirements and guidance relating to license plate readability, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Toll Evasion Preven-
5 tion and Plate Visibility Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. LICENSE PLATE READABILITY.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF PRODUCTS THAT IM-
8 PAIR READABILITY OF LICENSE PLATES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—No person may sell, offer for
2 sale, or facilitate the sale of—

3 (A) a good that is designed or marketed to
4 impair the readability of a license plate;

5 (B) a fraudulent, counterfeit, or altered li-
6 cense plate, including any plate that—

7 (i) falsely displays registration infor-
8 mation;

9 (ii) mimics or replicates a valid license
10 plate issued by a State without proper au-
11 thorization; or

12 (iii) has been materially altered from
13 its originally issued form to misrepresent
14 vehicle registration information;

15 (C) a year of manufacture license plate
16 without authorization from the State in which
17 such plate is intended to be used; or

18 (D) a legitimate license plate originally
19 issued by a State without authorization from
20 such State to engage in the sale of such plate.

21 (2) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this sub-
22 section, a person who receives, holds, or otherwise
23 transports a good or license plate described in para-
24 graph (1) shall not be deemed to be a person facili-
25 tating the sale of such good or license plate solely

1 by reason of receiving, holding, or transporting such
2 good or license plate in the ordinary course of busi-
3 ness.

4 (3) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COM-
5 MISSION.—

6 (A) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
7 TICES.—A violation of this subsection or a reg-
8 ulation promulgated under this subsection shall
9 be treated as a violation of a regulation under
10 section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Com-
11 mission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)) regarding
12 unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

13 (B) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The Fed-
14 eral Trade Commission shall enforce this sub-
15 section and the regulations promulgated under
16 this subsection in the same manner, by the
17 same means, and with the same jurisdiction,
18 powers, and duties as though all applicable
19 terms and provisions of the Federal Trade
20 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were in-
21 corporated into and made a part of this sub-
22 section. Any person who violates this subsection
23 or a regulation promulgated under this sub-
24 section shall be subject to the penalties and en-

1 titled to the privileges and immunities provided
2 in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

3 (4) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall
4 apply to a sale or offer for sale made on or after the
5 date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act.

7 (5) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Trade Com-
8 mission may promulgate, in accordance with section
9 553 of title 5, United States Code, regulations to
10 carry out this subsection.

11 (6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
12 subsection may be construed to preempt, limit, or
13 otherwise affect the authority of any State or local
14 government to enforce laws, regulations, or ordi-
15 nances with respect to prohibiting or regulating the
16 use, installation, or operation of a device that im-
17 pairs the readability of a license plate.

18 (b) GUIDANCE ON LICENSE PLATE READABILITY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
21 of the Federal Highway Administration shall work
22 with industry associations, State motor vehicle agen-
23 cies, tolling authorities, law enforcement, and other
24 relevant organizations to publish advisory guidance
25 relating to the readability of license plates.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—In publishing the guidance
2 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall in-
3 clude—

4 (A) best practices with respect to the ap-
5 pearance of license plates that facilitates the
6 use and increases the reliability of digital imag-
7 ing technology in capturing plate information;
8 and

9 (B) information regarding license plate
10 frames and covers that reduce the readability of
11 such plate.

12 (3) NO INTERFERENCE WITH STATE PRO-
13 GRAMS.—The guidance published under this sub-
14 section shall be advisory only and shall not be con-
15 strued to require States to modify existing license
16 plate designs, specifications, or programs, or to
17 adopt particular design standards or technical speci-
18 fications.

19 (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
22 of the Federal Highway Administration shall estab-
23 lish a grant program to facilitate the use of informa-
24 tion technology systems to identify vehicles that reg-
25 ularly evade tolls.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—In carrying out
2 the program established under paragraph (1), the
3 Administrator may make a grant to—

4 (A) a State;

5 (B) a unit of local government;

6 (C) a law enforcement agency of a State or
7 unit of local government;

8 (D) a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement
9 task force;

10 (E) a multi-jurisdictional organization rep-
11 resenting State licensing agencies and law en-
12 forcement; and

13 (F) an owner of a toll facility.

14 (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant
15 under the program established under paragraph (1),
16 an entity described in paragraph (2) shall submit to
17 the Administrator an application in such form, at
18 such time, and containing such information as the
19 Administrator determines appropriate.

20 (4) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—In carrying out the
21 program established under paragraph (1), the Ad-
22 ministrator may make a grant for—

23 (A) the development and implementation of
24 information technology systems to identify vehi-
25 cles that regularly evade tolls;

1 (B) training programs for law enforcement
2 personnel on the detection and enforcement of
3 license plate obstruction violations;

4 (C) data sharing systems that facilitate co-
5 ordination between law enforcement agencies,
6 State agencies, and owners of toll facilities in
7 identifying repeat violators; and

8 (D) other activities that the Administrator
9 determines will enhance enforcement of laws re-
10 lating to license plate readability.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
13 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

○