
HOUSE BILL No. 1338

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 9-18-2.

Synopsis: Failure to sign vehicle registration. Requires a law enforcement officer who demands to see the certificate of registration for a motor vehicle to permit the person to whom the motor vehicle is registered to sign the certificate of registration if the certificate is unsigned and the person is present in the motor vehicle. Requires a law enforcement officer to provide written notice to the person to whom a vehicle is registered but who is not present in the vehicle that the person is required to provide proof that the person has signed the certificate. Provides that a person who: (1) refuses to sign; or (2) after receiving notice, fails to provide proof of signing; a certificate of registration commits a Class C infraction. Provides that a motor vehicle for which the certificate of registration is not signed and that is operated by a person other than the owner is not subject to impoundment.

Effective: July 1, 2012.

Burton

January 11, 2012, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.

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PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1338



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-18-2-21 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 21. (a) A person who
- 3 registers a vehicle, except a person who registers a vehicle under the
- 4 International Registration Plan, shall sign the person's copy of the
- 5 certificate of registration in ink in the space provided.
- 6 (b) A certificate of registration or a legible reproduction of the
- 7 certificate of registration must be carried:
- 8 (1) in the vehicle to which the registration refers; or
- 9 (2) by the person driving or in control of the vehicle, who shall
- 10 display the registration upon the demand of a ~~police~~ **law**
- 11 **enforcement** officer.
- 12 (c) A legible reproduction of the certificate of registration may be
- 13 made by any photostatic or similar process. The valid stamp must be
- 14 legible on the reproduced copy.
- 15 **(d) If a certificate of registration displayed to a law enforcement**
- 16 **officer under subsection (b)(2) is not signed as required under**
- 17 **subsection (a), the law enforcement officer shall do the following:**



- 1 **(1) If the person driving or in control of the vehicle is a person**
- 2 **to whom the vehicle is registered, the law enforcement officer**
- 3 **shall provide the person an opportunity to sign the certificate**
- 4 **of registration as required under subsection (a).**
- 5 **(2) If a person to whom the vehicle is registered is not the**
- 6 **person driving or in control of the vehicle but is a passenger**
- 7 **in the vehicle, the law enforcement officer shall provide the**
- 8 **person an opportunity to sign the certificate of registration as**
- 9 **required under subsection (a).**
- 10 **(3) If the person to whom the vehicle is registered is not**
- 11 **present in the vehicle, the law enforcement officer shall**
- 12 **provide written notice to the person to whom the vehicle is**
- 13 **registered, at the address contained on the certificate of**
- 14 **registration, of the person's responsibility to provide proof to**
- 15 **the law enforcement officer not more than five (5) days after**
- 16 **the date of the notice that the person has signed the certificate**
- 17 **of registration.**
- 18 **(e) A person who:**
 - 19 **(1) refuses to sign a certificate of registration under**
 - 20 **subsection (d)(1) or (d)(2); or**
 - 21 **(2) fails to comply with subsection (d)(3);**
- 22 **commits a Class C infraction.**
- 23 SECTION 2. IC 9-18-2-43, AS AMENDED BY P.L.210-2005,
- 24 SECTION 26, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 25 JULY 1, 2012]: Sec. 43. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary
- 26 but except as provided in subsection (b) **and subject to subsection (c),**
- 27 a law enforcement officer authorized to enforce motor vehicle laws
- 28 who discovers a vehicle required to be registered under this article that
- 29 does not have the proper certificate of registration or license plate:
- 30 (1) shall take the vehicle into the officer's custody; and
- 31 (2) may cause the vehicle to be taken to and stored in a suitable
- 32 place until:
- 33 (A) the legal owner of the vehicle can be found; or
- 34 (B) the proper certificate of registration and license plates
- 35 have been procured.
- 36 (b) Except as provided in IC 9-21-21-7(b), a law enforcement
- 37 officer who discovers a vehicle in violation of the registration
- 38 provisions of this article has discretion in the impoundment of any of
- 39 the following:
- 40 (1) Perishable commodities.
- 41 (2) Livestock.
- 42 **(c) A law enforcement officer described in subsection (a) shall**

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- 1 **not take custody of a vehicle under this section if:**
- 2 **(1) the person who is driving or in control of the vehicle is not**
- 3 **the person to whom the vehicle is registered; and**
- 4 **(2) the only thing wrong with the certificate of registration in**
- 5 **the vehicle is that the certificate of registration is not signed.**

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