

Ministry of Transportation

Transportation Safety Division

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Ministère des Transports

Division de la sécurité en matière de transport

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MEMORANDUM TO: Kenneth Weatherill
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division
Ministry of the Solicitor General

FROM: Marcelle Crouse
Associate Deputy Minister
Transportation Safety Division
Ministry of Transportation

DATE: June 26, 2024

SUBJECT: **Automatic Vehicle Permit (Licence Plate) Validation**

This memorandum is to advise the policing community of recent amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) that will come into force on July 1, 2024.

On May 16, 2024, the *Get It Done Act, 2024* (formerly Bill 162) received Royal Assent. Among the various changes, it enables the government to automatically renew licence plates for most passenger vehicles, light duty commercial vehicles ($\leq 3000\text{kg}$), motorcycles, limited speed motorcycles, and mopeds (in-scope vehicles). Only vehicles registered to individuals (or jointly between two individuals) are eligible at this time. Vehicles registered to companies are not in scope.

Effective July 1, 2024, when a licence plate expiry date approaches, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will attempt to renew these plates automatically. If an eligible in-scope vehicle is insured and has no defaulted fines or tolls, its plates will be automatically renewed for one year. If the plates of an eligible vehicle cannot be renewed due to a fine, toll, or insurance issue, the vehicle owner will be notified by paper or digital notification of the issue and steps they need to take to renew their plate. Expired plates will be subject to roadside enforcement and vehicle owners must continue to update address changes within six (6) days of moving.

Please note, starting on July 1, 2024, the Ministry of Transportation will also make a one-time attempt to renew all eligible plates that have expired since January 2020. For plates that cannot be renewed due to fines, tolls or insurance issues, vehicle owners who have not provided digital contact information will receive a paper notice sent to the last address on record indicating the steps they need to take to renew.

Vehicle owners who pay their defaulted fines on or near their expiry date may still appear on the hotlist because of delays in updating MTO's system. To ensure vehicle owners are not incorrectly flagged due to system update delays, there will be a delay flagging expired plates to the Automated Licence Plate Reader (ALPR) Hotlist, until seven (7) calendar days has elapsed from the time of expiry. All other ALPR hotlist data will remain the same.

Since the program will ensure that no in-scope vehicle owner has their plate expire simply because they forgot to renew, we expect to see a decrease in the number of expired plates for eligible vehicles on the road.

I also want to acknowledge the sustained efforts of our policing partners as they continue to take a measured, risk-based approach to roadside enforcement.

Public education and awareness are critical to ensuring successful implementation as we modernize vehicle registration and related processes. As a key partner, police services will continue to be engaged appropriately to ensure operational alignment of new programs or other changes and to support effective roadside interaction.

BACKGROUND:

On February 22, 2022, the government announced it was making life more affordable and convenient for nearly eight million vehicle owners by eliminating licence plate renewal fees and the requirement to have a licence plate sticker for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, effective March 13, 2022. In addition, the government indicated that vehicle owners will still be required to renew their licence plate every one or two years at no cost.

Please contact **Frank Iannuzzi, Manager, Vehicle Program Development Office** at Frank.Iannuzzi@ontario.ca with any further questions you may have.

Thank you for your assistance.



Marcelle Crouse
Associate Deputy Minister, Transportation Safety Division
Ministry of Transportation