



# SENATE BILL 509: Public Authority/Weight & Perm. Plates

2015-2016 General Assembly

**Committee:** Senate Transportation  
**Introduced by:** Sen. Lee  
**Analysis of:** PCS to First Edition  
S509-CSRwf-36

**Date:** July 14, 2015  
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Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *Senate Bill 509 (proposed committee substitute) exempts Chapter 162A water and sewer authorities from light traffic road weight limits established by NC DOT; and authorizes DMV to issue permanent registration plates for motor vehicles owned and operated by Chapter 162A water and sewer authorities, and for a REACT (radio emergency associated communications teams) team that provides its services pursuant to a contract with a county or municipality.*

### CURRENT LAW:

- Under current law, the following weight limits apply on State roads, unless there is a statutory exception: single-axle weight: 20,000 lbs., tandem-axle weight 38,000 lbs., gross weight 80,000 lbs. NC DOT is authorized to impose additional axle weight limits on light traffic roads.
- Under current law, DMV is authorized to issue permanent licenses plates, for a one-time \$6 fee, to specified organizations.<sup>1</sup>

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 509 (proposed committee substitute) makes the following changes to State law:

- Exempts Chapter 162A water and sewer authorities from the light traffic road weight limitations established by NC DOT when vehicles are used in connection with installation, restoration, or emergency maintenance of utility services.
- Authorizes DMV to issue permanent registration plates for motor vehicles owned and operated by Chapter 162A water and sewer authorities and for vehicles owned by a REACT

<sup>1</sup> G.S. 20-84(b) Permanent Registration Plates. – The Division may issue permanent plates for the following motor vehicles:

- (1) A motor vehicle owned by the State or one of its agencies.
- (2) A motor vehicle owned by a county, city or town.
- (3) A motor vehicle owned by a board of education.
- (3a) **(Repealed effective July 1, 2015)** A motor vehicle that is owned and exclusively operated by a nonprofit corporation authorized under G.S. 115C-218.5 to operate a charter school and identified by a permanent decal or painted marking disclosing the name of the nonprofit corporation. The motor vehicle shall only be used for student transportation and official charter school related activities.
- (4) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (5) A motor vehicle owned by the civil air patrol.
- (6) A motor vehicle owned by an incorporated emergency rescue squad.
- (7) through (9) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (10) A motor vehicle owned by a rural fire department, agency, or association.
- (11) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.
- (12) A motor vehicle owned by a local chapter of the American National Red Cross and used for emergency or disaster work.
- (13) through (16) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-159, s. 1, effective July 1, 2012.

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# Senate Bill 509

*Page 2*

(radio emergency associated communications teams) team that provides its services pursuant to a contract with a county or municipality.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act is effective when it becomes law and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

- (17) A motor vehicle owned by a community college. A community college vehicle purchased with State equipment funds shall be issued a permanent registration plate with the same distinctive color and design as a permanent registration plate issued under subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (18) A motor vehicle that is owned and operated by a sanitary district created under Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.
- (19) Any motor vehicle owned by a federally recognized tribe.