

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR  
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

**NOTICE**

August 21, 2024

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**TO:** All Department Personnel

**FROM:** Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

**SUBJECT:** STATE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 2111 – LICENSE PLATES:  
OBSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Notice is to advise Department personnel of a revision to Section 5201.1 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) concerning the enforcement of the obstruction or alteration of a vehicle's license plate, which will enable law enforcement personnel to no longer need to prove a driver's intent to alter their license plate to avoid law enforcement detection.

**BACKGROUND**

On July 3, 2024, California State Assembly Bill 2111 was approved and will amend Section 5201.1 of the CVC, effective January 1, 2025. The existing law prohibits a person from erasing the reflective coating of, painting over the reflective coating of, or altering a license plate to avoid visual or electronic capture of the license plate or its characters by State of California or local enforcement. A violation of this provision is an infraction. The Bill will expand the definition of this crime.

**PROCEDURE**

Effective January 1, 2025, Section 5201.1(c) will be changed to read:

*“A person shall not erase the reflective coating of, paint over the reflective coating of, or alter a license plate to avoid visual or electronic capture of the license plate or its characters.”*

The revised verbiage will remove the requirement that the intent of the violator was to avoid detection by State and local enforcement. As a result, this revision has eased the ability to enforce this violation by non-law enforcement entities, such as toll violations and speed camera tickets. Although this revision will not impact traffic enforcement regarding this violation, personnel should be aware of this change.

All Department Personnel

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If you have any questions, please contact Traffic Coordination Section, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0690.



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APPROVED:



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