

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 731

January 16, 2002 – Introduced by Representatives STONE, RILEY, ALBERS, BIES, COGGS, FREESE, GUNDERSON, HAHN, HINES, HUEBSCH, HUNDERTMARK, JESKEWITZ, LA FAVE, LASSA, MCCORMICK, MUSSER, OLSEN, PETROWSKI, PLALE, RYBA, SYKORA, TOWNSEND and VRAKAS, cosponsored by Senators BURKE, DARLING, GROBSCHMIDT and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 341.607 of the statutes; **relating to:** displaying, possessing,
2 selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may display on a motor vehicle a registration plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration not issued for that motor vehicle. Any person who does so may be required to forfeit not more than \$500. Also under current law, subject to one exception, no person may transfer to another person or offer for sale a registration plate issued by the department of transportation. Any person who does so may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than seven years and six months or both.

This bill creates specific prohibitions against displaying a stolen registration plate on a motor vehicle or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate. Under the bill, violators may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than nine months or both.

The bill provides that a person charged with displaying a stolen registration plate or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate may raise the affirmative defense that he or she did not know and could not, by reasonable effort, have known that the registration plate was stolen. Any person who raises this affirmative defense must prove it by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

