



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

## Ortt Introduces Legislation to Block License Plate Fees

ROBERT G. ORTT August 23, 2019

| ISSUE: [LICENSE PLATES, DMV FEES](#)



Today, **Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I,Ref-North Tonawanda)** held a press conference to address the newly proposed license plate renewal fees that will be mandated by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Niagara County Clerk Joseph Jastrzemski joined Ortt as the senator introduced legislation that would waive the fees associated with the mandatory license plate replacement.

“Once again, Governor Cuomo and his out-of-touch administration are looking for a way to bolster the state’s budget at the expense of New York’s hard-working taxpayers,” said Ortt. “If

new license plates are necessary for cashless tolling, as outlined by the governor, then the state should be providing new license plates to every driver in our state free of charge. It is not the burden of the drivers of our state to refund the incompetence and inability of those charged with implementing cashless tolling.”

Ortt’s bill, S.6663, would require the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner to waive the \$25 fee for any license plate mandated for replacement by the state due to a design change.

As one of the least tax-friendly states in the entire country, the governor’s proposal to charge \$25 to \$45 for every new vehicle registered with a plate 10 or more years old comes as no surprise. Ortt noted that for years, New York State has been nickel and diming its residents, which is why he believes it continually ranks near the top of the list when it comes to out-migration. He also noted that Thruway tolls were supposed to expire in 1996 when the bonds to pay for the construction were paid off.

“Here we go again - governance at its worst. This time, Governor Cuomo is creating a \$350 million windfall on the backs of 14 million registered NYS drivers,” said **Niagara County Clerk Joseph Jastrzemski**.

“Asking taxpayers to pay \$25 for new a license plate, which will essentially serve as a device that makes it easier for NYS to collect a toll is an egregious money grab and terrible excuse to reach into our pockets, even for New York State,” said **Assemblyman Mike Norris (R,C,I,Ref-Lockport)**. “This is a perfect demonstration, along with the previous license plate debacle, of the incompetence and ‘tax and spend’ mentality of state government.”

“Should new license plates be required because of the state’s electronic toll system, the burden of an unfunded mandate should not be placed on the taxpayers of New York State,” said **Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello (R,C,I,Ref-Niagara Falls)**.

“New Yorkers are smart. No matter how the governor and his press team try to spin this story, we will see this for what it is: a massive cash grab,” Ortt concluded.

This is the latest vehicle-related point of contention between Governor Cuomo and New York residents. Earlier this summer, Cuomo and his Democrat colleagues in the Legislature voted to give drivers’ licenses to illegal aliens, skirting federal law and placing unfunded costs on county clerk offices around the state.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2019-S6663

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to waiving certain fees charged for motor vehicle license plates

August 21, 2019

In Senate Committee Transportation

Sponsored by Robert G. Ort

Do you support this bill?