



PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Key Ideas from Five Program Evaluation Division Reports on State-Owned Vehicles and Permanent License Plates

Summary

This report provides an overview of five Program Evaluation Division reports on state-owned vehicles and permanent license plates:

- *Inadequate Data and Fleet Information Management Weaken Accountability for North Carolina's Vehicles* ([2011-07](#));
- *Motor Fleet Management Uses Best Practices, but Needs Telematics to Strengthen Accountability* ([2012-02](#));
- *Ineffective Policies and Diffuse Oversight Result in Inefficient Use of State-Owned Vehicles* ([2012-06](#));
- *Follow-up Analysis of Permanent License Plates Owned by State and Non-State Entities* ([2011-07-01](#)); and
- *Follow-up Report: Reviewing Eligibility for Permanent License Plates would Strengthen State Oversight* ([2011-07-02](#))

The reports found that North Carolina does not have complete vehicle information and has not used telematics; weak and decentralized oversight by state agencies and institutions causes lapses in accountability and inefficient use of state-owned vehicles; and technology offers opportunities to improve management and oversight.

The General Assembly should require all state agencies and institutions to report complete vehicle information to a statewide fleet management information system; direct the Department of Administration to install basic telematics services on state-owned passenger vehicles; authorize the Department of Administration to supervise the management and operation of state-owned vehicles; and recodify and clarify relevant state laws.

The reports on the status of permanent license plates found that state law allows certain non-state entities to receive permanent license plates and that several obstacles limit the State's ability to ensure whether non-state entities qualify for permanent plates.

The General Assembly should consider limiting eligibility for permanent license plates to governmental entities; review the basis for issuing permanent license plates to non-governmental entities; and make statutory changes to ensure entities receiving permanent license plates can be properly identified in DMV registration records and vehicles with permanent plates receive safety inspections.

The House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee introduced legislation approved by the joint committee and based on recommendations from the five reports.