



1920

503,800 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



Trucks begin to be registered separately from passenger cars. The prefix TRUCK appears vertically on these license plates.

Truck owners are required to display a metal truck plate, attached to the license plate, with the word "ILLINOIS WEIGHT" and the maximum weight of the vehicle and the load permitted embossed on it. The plate must be attached to the vehicle at all times in a conspicuous place.

Greenduck Co. of Chicago is contracted to make the plates. However, 100,000 passenger plates and the metal truck plates are sublet to Grimm Stamp and Badge Co. of St. Louis.

1921

583,400 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

License plates are made by four different companies:



- Grimm Stamp and Badge Co. of St. Louis, MO, numbers 1 to 200-000
- Western Display Co. of St. Paul, MN, numbers 200-001 to 300-000
- C.H. Hanson Co. of Chicago, numbers 300-001 to 500-000
- Greenduck Co. of Chicago, non-passenger plates.

The first highway police force is created on June 24 when the

Illinois General Assembly authorizes the Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings to appoint a sufficient number of State Highway Maintenance Police to patrol the highways and make arrests for violations of the Motor Vehicle Law.

1922

682,300 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



The increase in the number of automobiles necessitates more policing. In 1922, the Secretary of State's office is granted police powers for the enforcement of automobile laws. By 1923, the Secretary of State's investigative force numbers 25 men and about 10 cars and 10 three-wheeled motorcycles.

C.H. Hanson Co. of Chicago makes the license plates. It receives contracts to make license plates through 1927.

1923

847,000 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



Illinois authorizes a \$100 million bond to complete the state's Bond Issue System and make hard surfaced roads available to every community.

1924

981,900 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



Trailer license plates are issued for the first time.

1925

1,102,000 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office, marking the first time passenger car plate production exceeds 1 million. C. H. Hanson Company of Chicago has the contract to make the license plates and charges 13.55 cents per set.



The number of employees in the Secretary of State's Automobile Department exceeds 100 for the first time.



1926

1,195,000 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

1927

1,254,400 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



A design configuration appears on Illinois license plates for the first time. On the right side of the plate is a black outline of Illinois with the letters ILL and the numbers 27 inside. C.H. Hanson Co. of Chicago manufactures the license plates.

The special metal plate requirement for trucks, which listed the maximum weight of a truck and its load, ends. In 1930, regular truck plates contain prefix letters, which define their weight categories.

1928

1,314,000 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



W.F. Robertson Iron and Steel Co. of Springfield, Ohio makes the license plates. It will also make plates for 1929 and 1930.

1929

1,410,900 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



The General Assembly authorizes a tax on motor fuel to help fund the state's hard road system.