



1960

3,312,800 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



The colors of gold on royal blue are chosen in honor of the centennials of both Augustana College at Rock Island and Wheaton College in Wheaton.

1961

3,389,600 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



Based on a study of the license plate numbering system, the state discontinues the use of the straight numerical numbering system. Digits are now used on the first 999,999 passenger license plates, and a combination of two letters and four digits are used for all remaining passenger car license plates.

The colors of white on red are chosen in honor of North Central College of Naperville.

The U prefix is used for the first time on license plates for vehicles owned by the state of Illinois. Municipal (M) plates were used previously.

1962

3,496,200 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



The colors of white on orange are chosen. A study on license plates indicates that the combination would be a good contrast and no neighboring state is using it. However, law enforcement

officers find that the license plates are difficult to see under certain lighting conditions.

1963



3,607,500 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

The colors of yellow on dark green are chosen in honor of the 125th anniversary of John Deere & Company of Moline.

1964



3,741,800 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

The colors of white on purple are chosen to represent the colors of McKendree College, founded in 1828 in Lebanon, Illinois, and Rockford College, founded in 1847.

Hemp and Company of Macomb is acquired by King-Seeley Thermos, becoming a unit of that company. Plates continue to be made at the Macomb plant through 1969, although some are sublet to the Metal Stamping Corp. of Conway, Arkansas.

1965



3,902,300 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

The colors of green on white are chosen in honor of Secretary of State Charles Carpentier, who died in office in 1964.

House of Representatives plates have a number based on seniority, not district. This is done because House members are elected at-large in 1964 due to a failure to redraw the district lines.

1966



4,022,500 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office, as passenger car plate production exceeds the 4 million mark for the first time.

Illinois issues reflective license plates for the first time, which make the plates more visible at night. To cover the cost of the plates, registration fees are increased by 50 cents across the

board. This is the first increase in passenger plate fees in 30 years.

For the first time, Repossessor license plates are issued. These plates are issued to financial institutions, lending institutions and persons engaged in the business of repossessing motor vehicles for others upon default of payment. The license plates have the word "REPOSSESSOR" on them.

1967

4,209,900 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

School bus plates are issued for the first time. The word "SCHOOL" is embossed vertically on the left side and the word "BUS" is embossed vertically on the right side.



This is the last year a U plate for state-owned vehicles is issued on an annual basis.

For the first time, the state issues special license plates for the seven members of the Illinois Supreme Court. The annual license plates carry the words "SUPREME COURT" and are numbered 1 through 7, indicating court seniority.

The state allows for the creation of special inaugural license plates. The plates may be issued to any Illinois resident who officially participates in a presidential inauguration. The plates may be used from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15 of a year when the president is inaugurated.

1968

4,354,400 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

To mark Illinois' sesquicentennial, the year "1818" is incorporated into the slogan on passenger plates. The year also appears on any other type of plate that has space for it.



The General Assembly passes legislation to divide motorcycle plates into two groups, determined by engine size. On smaller motorcycles, under 150 cc, a letter precedes the number on the plate. On larger motorcycles, 150 cc and over, the plates are strictly numeric.

U plates for state-owned vehicles are now issued for two years rather than one year. The first two-year U plate has the year “68” in front of “Illinois” and the year “69” after it.

A plate with the words “STATE POLICE” is issued for the first time. Up until this time, State Police cars were issued the same plates as other state-owned vehicles. State Police plates are issued for a two-year period.

The state begins to issue Antique Vehicle plates, which are two-year plates costing \$20. Vehicles with the plates must be at least 35 years old and driven only to and from displays or exhibitions.

Distinctive “Electric Vehicle” plates are issued. These are two-year plates.

1969

4,510,500 passenger vehicles are registered with the Illinois Secretary of State’s office.



Second-division vehicle plates undergo major changes. A more straightforward system of suffix letters is introduced for truck plates. Trailers have an entirely new system of T/alpha suffixes (e.g. T/A replaces W). Mileage Tax plates use M alpha suffixes. Other second-division vehicles have their formats reversed. The 1969 plates are used for only six months, as the state converts to a July-June fiscal year for most second-division plates and begins using different colors.

Recreational Vehicle (RV) license plates are first issued.