

A Red Plate State

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Standard license plates in North Carolina will have their first new look in 25 years when tag numbers become red instead of blue starting Monday.

The redesign will keep the 1980s lettering of "North Carolina," and the background will retain the faint sea grass and the Wright brothers' plane. Officials said most states rotate their tag designs every five to 15 years. North Carolina last changed the standard design in 1982. Only Delaware, which uses a 1962 design, has kept the same standard design longer than North Carolina. The state has allocated \$1.2 million to distribute more than 600,000 new plates during the first year to replace plates that begin with letters A through H.