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Virginia Beach gets rid of city windshield decals

By the Associated Press

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VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. -- The annual scrape-and-stick ritual of the city windshield decal will end next summer for Virginia Beach drivers.

The city is believed to be the first in the state to eliminate the city sticker. City Council voted 10-1 Tuesday to abolish the program in July 2003.

Residents will continue to pay the \$25 annual fee when they renew or purchase license plates. City leaders are reluctant to give up the fee because it produces \$7.8 million annually.

However, instead of using the stickers to indicate that owners have paid the personal property tax on their vehicles, the city will rely on the state's vehicle registration system to identify delinquent taxpayers.

The vote capped more than a year of debate that began last summer when Commissioner of the Revenue Philip J. Kellam proposed the idea while kicking off his re-election bid. Kellam argued that the sticker was old-fashioned and redundant.

Vehicle owners still must obtain annual state inspection stickers for their windshields.

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