License plates issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission indicate the type of registered vehicle by words displayed at the bottom of each plate. Examples include Garden State (passenger), Commercial, School Vehicle, Trailer or Omnibus. Non-passenger vehicle plates also begin with a letter combination, which designates the specific type of vehicle. Series that begin with the letter X typically refer to a commercial vehicle, T series denote a trailer and certain S plates signify a school vehicle.

There are, however, standard, passenger vehicle license plate combinations that also begin with the letters S, T or X. The difference with these particular plates is that, like all other passenger vehicle license plates, the bottom of the plate features the words “Garden State.” Vehicles displaying these plates are legally-registered, passenger vehicles and should not be cited for improper registration.