AN ACT
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - OPERATOR'S AND CHAUFFEUR'S LICENSES - VETERAN DESIGNATION

Introduced By: Representatives Martin, Gallison, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: January 04, 2012

Referred To: House VETERANS' AFFAIRS

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 31-10-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

31-10-26. Issuance of license.-- (a) The division of motor vehicles shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every qualifying applicant an operator's or chauffeur's license. The license shall be approximately two and one-half inches (2 1/2") wide and three and one-half inches (3 1/2") long and shall bear on it a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, residence address, brief description of the licensee, a photograph of the licensee, whether the licensee has indicated a desire to donate tissue or organs pursuant to the provisions of chapter 18.6 of title 23, and either a space upon which the licensee shall write his or her usual signature with pen and ink or a facsimile of the signature of the licensee. No license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the licensee designated on it. A negative file of all photographs of licensees shall be maintained by the division of motor vehicles for a period of five (5) years.

(b) The division of motor vehicles shall issue special licenses to those licensees who have indicated that they desire to donate tissue or organs, which conform to the provisions of the Rhode Island Anatomical Gift Act, chapter 18.6 of title 23.

(c) Any person who is a law enforcement officer, meaning any permanently employed member of the state, city, or town police departments, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, members of
the marshal's unit, capitol police, and the state fire marshal and deputy fire marshals of the
division of fire safety or a member of the department of attorney general, any permanently
employed federal law enforcement officer assigned in Rhode Island, or any member of the United
States Attorney's Office in Rhode Island or any employee of the R.I. department of corrections, as
recommended by the director of the department of corrections, upon request of the applicant,
shall be issued a license which contains the applicant's official business address in lieu of a
residence address as required under the general provisions of this section.

(d) The license issued to a person applying for the first time shall be designated as a
"first license". A first license shall be issued for a one year period after which time a permanent
driver's license shall be issued according to this section.

(e) If an applicant has been adjudicated for committing one moving motor vehicle
violation, has been involved in one reportable motor vehicle accident, or both, he or she shall be
summoned for a hearing before a judge of the traffic tribunal at which time the driving record will
be reviewed. The traffic tribunal judge shall determine if the person should be granted an
operator's license, be reissued a first license, or be denied a license to operate a motor vehicle in
the state of Rhode Island.

(f) Any person who is under the age of twenty-one (21) years shall, upon payment of the
required fee and upon meeting the qualifications for the receipt of an operator's or chauffeur's
license, be issued a license which shall be readily distinguishable in color from those licenses
issued to persons who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older. When a person under the age of
twenty-one (21) years to whom a license has been issued and whose license is in full force and
effect, attains his or her twenty-first birthday, he or she shall be entitled to receive a new license
of the type issued to persons who are older than the age of twenty-one (21) years from the
administrator of the division of motor vehicles upon demand at no expense. Every person shall
supply to the division of motor vehicles satisfactory proof of his or her date of birth.

(g) The division of motor vehicles shall issue special licenses upon the request of a
licensee which conform to the provisions of the Rhode Island Anatomical Gift Act, chapter 18.6
of title 23.

(h) The division of motor vehicles shall note in an appropriate manner a restriction on
any person's license who is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an
ignition interlock system as provided in chapter 27 of this title.

(i) Any personal digitized information contained within an operator's or chauffeur's
license shall be limited to: (a) the licensee's name, age, date of birth, address, gender, physical
description such as weight, height, hair color and eye color, designation of veteran status.
signature and organ donor status; and (b) the license number, commercial endorsements, expiration date, issue date, restriction and class.

(j) Except to the extent an entity is authorized to renew drivers' licenses, or except for financial institutions engaged in the verification of information for financial transactions, nongovernmental entities shall not have access to any digitized information contained in an operator or chauffeur's license other than the licensee's name, age, date of birth, signature, and photographic image, and the license's expiration date; nor shall they store, record or retain any such information obtained through a digital reading device. Access to digitized information by such entities shall be solely for the purpose of determining the age of an individual for a transaction, right or privilege available by law only to persons of a certain age.

(k) To the extent that nongovernmental entities shall have access to the digitized information stored on an operator's or chauffeur's license, the entity shall be civilly liable for the unauthorized access to, or retention or use of, such information by its agents or persons acting in the name of the entity.

(l) The division of motor vehicles shall collect from applicants and licensees their social security numbers and tax identification numbers only to the extent required by federal law. Such numbers shall not be included, either digitally or visually, on the operator's or chauffeur's license.

SECTION 2. Section 31-10-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

31-10-31. Fees. -- The following fees shall be paid to the division of motor vehicles:

(1) For every operator's first license to operate a motor vehicle, twenty-five dollars ($25.00);

(2) For every chauffeur's first license, twenty-five dollars ($25.00); provided, that when a Rhode Island licensed operator transfers to a chauffeur's license, the fee for the transfer shall be two dollars ($2.00);

(3) For every learner's permit to operate a motorcycle, twenty-five dollars ($25.00);

(4) For every operator's first license to operate a motorcycle, twenty-five dollars ($25.00);

(5) For every renewal of an operator's or chauffeur's license, thirty dollars ($30.00); with the exception of any person seventy-five (75) years of age or older for whom the renewal fee will be eight dollars ($8.00);

(6) For every duplicate operator's or chauffeur's license, twenty-five dollars ($25.00);

(7) For every certified copy of any license, permit, or application issued under this chapter, ten dollars ($10.00);
(8) For every duplicate instruction permit, ten dollars ($10.00);

(9) For every first license examination, five dollars ($5.00);

(10) For every routine information update, i.e., name change or address change, five dollars ($5.00);

(11) For surrender of an out-of-state license, in addition to the above fees, five dollars ($5.00);

(12) For every addition of veteran’s designation to an operator license, five dollars ($5.00). There shall be no incremental fee for this designation at the scheduled time of renewal.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.
This act would permit a notation on Rhode Island motor vehicle operator’s licenses indicating the holder is a veteran. A fee of five dollars ($5.00) shall be paid to the division of motor vehicles for the veteran’s designation. This act would take effect upon passage.