

2016 -- H 7596

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LC004535  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES - DISABLED VETERANS

Introduced By: Representatives Lancia, Azzinaro, Naughton, Costa, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: February 12, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-3-104. Disabled veterans plates. -- (a) The registrar of motor vehicles shall issue for**  
4 **any motor vehicle eligible for registration as an automobile, or for any motorcycle eligible for**  
5 **registration as a motorcycle, or for a commercial vehicle having a gross weight of twelve**  
6 **thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less, plates designated as "Disabled Veteran" upon application**  
7 **on proper forms furnished by the administration of the division of motor vehicles.**

8 **(b) The special plate designated "Disabled Veteran" shall be designed as follows:**

9 **(1) Letters and numbers shall be blue in a white background with the words "Rhode**  
10 **Island" clearly visible at the top center of the plate and the words "Disabled Veteran" visible at**  
11 **the bottom center of the plate.**

12 **(2) The background will be a red, white, and blue waving American Flag.**

13 **(3) On the top right corner will be a decal with the military branch of the service in which**  
14 **the veteran served (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines).**

15 **(4) For disabled veterans, a white decal with blue letters with the words "Disabled**  
16 **Veteran" placed under the military branch decal on the right side of the plate above the validation**  
17 **sticker.**

18 **(c) The applicant shall be required to pay a service charge of twenty dollars (\$20.00) and**  
19 **a transfer charge of five dollars (\$5.00) for each plate.**

1           (d) The applicant shall be entitled to a plate for each vehicle owned by the applicant upon  
2 payment of an additional service charge and/or transfer charge for each vehicle.

3           (e) The owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a commercial vehicle and  
4 having a gross weight of twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less who is issued disabled  
5 veteran plates shall continue to pay the appropriate commercial registration fee for those plates.  
6 The owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a commercial vehicle having a gross  
7 weight of six thousand three hundred pounds (6,300 lbs.) but not more than twelve thousand  
8 pounds (12,000 lbs.) shall sign an affidavit at the time of application for said plates stating that  
9 the vehicle is to be used for personal use only.

10           (f)(1) For the purposes of this section, a "Disabled Veteran" shall be defined as any  
11 person who has served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, or the National  
12 Guard and Reserves:

13           (i) Called to active duty authorized by the President of the United States or the Secretary  
14 of Defense; or

15           (ii) Who has twenty (20) years of service with a letter and record of separation of service  
16 and who has been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent  
17 (100%) disabled by a service connected disability.

18           (2) Upon the death of the holder of a disabled veteran plate, the plates shall be transferred  
19 to the surviving spouse for the spouse's lifetime or until they remarry.

20           (g) A person shall be eligible for a disabled veteran plate if their deceased spouse was  
21 eligible for a disabled veteran plate, notwithstanding the fact that the eligible, deceased spouse  
22 died prior to the enactment of this section.

23           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would create a new category of veteran registration plate for those veterans who  
2 are one hundred percent (100%) disabled while on active duty.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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