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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL CODE PROVISIONS

Introduced By: Representative Lauren H. Carson

Date Introduced: January 11, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-1 entitled "Definitions  
2 and General Code Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-1-3. Types of vehicles.**

4 (a) (1) "Antique motor car" means any motor vehicle that is more than twenty-five (25)  
5 years old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection requirements, the vehicle may be  
6 maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public  
7 interest. The vehicle may also be used for limited enjoyment and purposes other than the  
8 previously mentioned activities, but may not be used primarily for the transportation of  
9 passengers or goods over any public highway.

10 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate  
11 may be issued to it on payment of the standard fee. The vehicle may be operated on the highways  
12 of this and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the designation  
13 "antique" and display an "antique plate".

14 (3) (i) For any vehicle that is more than twenty-five (25) years old, the division of motor  
15 vehicles ~~may shall~~ also issue or approve, ~~subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated~~  
16 ~~by the administrator,~~ a "year of manufacture plate", either issued by the division of motor  
17 vehicles or in the possession of the applicant, for the vehicle that is an exact replica plate  
18 designating the exact year of manufacture of the vehicle, ~~and shall comply with the following~~

1 provisions:

2 (A) The vehicle owner must complete an application designed by the division of motor  
3 vehicles and signed in the presence of a notary.

4 (B) The plate must be physically presented to the administrator for inspection and  
5 approval in accordance with the following:

6 (I) The plate must be in good repair and in original condition. Its letters, numbers and  
7 markings must be clearly legible. Any indication that the plate has been repainted or otherwise  
8 altered will cause the administrator to reject use of the plate.

9 (II) The plate must be sufficiently distinctive in appearance so as not to be confused with  
10 currently issued plates. If the administrator has already approved the use of a plate as a "year of  
11 manufacture" plate, which contains a specific combination of letters and numbers (or letters or  
12 numbers alone), that same combination on a different "year of manufacture plate" is not  
13 sufficiently distinctive and will not be approved as another "year of manufacture plate".

14 (III) A "year of manufacture plate" may be approved by the administrator for use on an  
15 antique motor car of a different type than that for which the registration plate was originally  
16 issued. For example, a truck plate may be approved for use on an antique automobile and an  
17 automobile plate may be approved for use on an antique truck provided, a motorcycle plate shall  
18 only be used on a motorcycle.

19 (IV) The administrator may approve of the display of only one "year of manufacture  
20 plate", if that is all that is available, even though the division of motor vehicles issued two (2)  
21 plates per vehicle in the year the plate was originally issued.

22 (V) A "year of manufacture plate" must be displayed pursuant to §31-3-18 but the  
23 registration decal for the current registration period need not be attached to the plate. If it is not  
24 attached to the plate it must be carried in the antique vehicle at all times and presented at the  
25 request of a police officer.

26 (VI) A plate displaying the word "antique" cannot be used as a "year of manufacture  
27 plate."

28 (ii) If the "year of manufacture plate" is ever suspended or revoked, the administrator  
29 may require the plate be turned in to the division of motor vehicles.

30 (b) (1) "Antique motorcycle" means any motorcycle that is more than twenty-five (25)  
31 years old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection requirements, the vehicle shall be  
32 maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public  
33 interest. The vehicle may also be used for limited enjoyment and purposes other than the  
34 previously mentioned activities, but may not be used primarily for the transportation of

1 passengers or goods over any public highway; and

2 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate  
3 may be issued to it, on payment of the standard fee, and the vehicle may be operated on the  
4 highways of this and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the  
5 designation "antique" and display an "antique plate".

6 (c) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means vehicles of the fire department (fire patrol);  
7 police vehicles; vehicles used by Rhode Island state marshals in the department of corrections;  
8 vehicles used by the state bomb squad within the division of state fire marshal; vehicles of  
9 municipal departments or public service corporations designated or authorized by the  
10 administrator as ambulances and emergency vehicles; and privately owned motor vehicles of  
11 volunteer firefighters or privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer ambulance drivers or  
12 attendants, as authorized by the department chief or commander and permitted by the Rhode  
13 Island Association of Fire Chiefs and Rhode Island Association of Police Chiefs Joint Committee  
14 for Volunteer Warning Light Permits.

15 (d) "Automobile" means, for registration purposes, every motor vehicle carrying  
16 passengers other than for hire.

17 (e) "Bicycle" means every vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and  
18 similar devices, propelled exclusively by human power, and upon which a person may ride.

19 (f) "Camping recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type camping unit, certified by the  
20 manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.2 Standards, designed primarily as temporary living  
21 quarters for recreation that has either its own motor power or is mounted on, or towed by, another  
22 vehicle. The basic units are tent trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, motorized campers, travel trailers,  
23 and pick-up campers.

24 (g) "Electric motorized bicycles" means a motorized bicycle that may be propelled by  
25 human power or electric motor power, or by both, with an electric motor rated not more than two  
26 (2) (S.A.E.) horsepower, that is capable of a maximum speed of not more than twenty-five (25)  
27 miles per hour.

28 (h) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" ("EPAMD") is a self-balancing, non-  
29 tandem two-wheeled (2) device, designed to transport only one person, with an electric  
30 propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to fifteen (15) miles per hour.

31 (i) Fifth-wheel trailer: A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding four hundred (400)  
32 square feet in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that contains a towing  
33 mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle and that is eligible to  
34 be registered for highway use.

1 (j) "Hearse" means every motor vehicle used for transporting human corpses. A hearse  
2 shall be considered an automobile for registration purposes.

3 (k) "Jitney or bus" means: (1) A "public bus" that includes every motor vehicle, trailer,  
4 semi-trailer, tractor trailer, or tractor trailer combination, used for the transportation of passengers  
5 for hire, and operated wholly or in part upon any street or highway as a means of transportation  
6 similar to that afforded by a street railway company, by indiscriminately receiving or discharging  
7 passengers, or running on a regular route or over any portion of one, or between fixed termini; or  
8 (2) A "private bus" that includes every motor vehicle other than a public bus or passenger van  
9 designed for carrying more than ten (10) passengers and used for the transportation of persons,  
10 and every motor vehicle other than a taxicab designed and used for the transportation of persons  
11 for compensation.

12 (l) "Motorcycle" means only those motor vehicles having not more than three (3) wheels  
13 in contact with the ground and a saddle on which the driver sits astride, except bicycles with  
14 helper motors as defined in subsection (n) of this section.

15 (m) "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with  
16 a motor of no greater than five (5) horsepower, except bicycles with helper motors as defined in  
17 subsection (n) of this section.

18 (n) "Motorized bicycles" means two-wheel (2) vehicles that may be propelled by human  
19 power or helper power, or by both, with a motor rated not more than four and nine-tenths (4.9)  
20 horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters, that are capable of a maximum  
21 speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

22 (o) Motorized camper: A camping recreational vehicle, built on, or permanently attached  
23 to, a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis cab or van that is an integral part of the completed  
24 vehicle.

25 (p) "Motorized tricycles" means tricycles that may be propelled by human power or  
26 helper motor, or by both, with a motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower that is capable of  
27 a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

28 (q) "Motorized wheelchair" means any self-propelled vehicle, designed for, and used by,  
29 a person with a disability that is incapable of speed in excess of eight (8) miles per hour.

30 (r) "Motor scooter" means a motor-driven cycle with a motor rated not more than four  
31 and nine-tenths (4.9) horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters that is capable  
32 of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

33 (s) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle that is self-propelled or propelled by electric  
34 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails, except vehicles moved

1 exclusively by human power, an EPAMD and electric motorized bicycles as defined in subsection  
2 (g) of this section, and motorized wheelchairs.

3 (t) "Motor vehicle for hire" means every motor vehicle other than jitneys, public buses,  
4 hearses, and motor vehicles used chiefly in connection with the conduct of funerals, to transport  
5 persons for compensation in any form, or motor vehicles rented for transporting persons either  
6 with or without furnishing an operator.

7 (u) Park trailer: A camping recreational vehicle that is eligible to be registered for  
8 highway use and meets the following criteria: (1) Built on a single chassis mounted on wheels;  
9 and (2) Certified by the manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.5.

10 (v) "Passenger van" means every motor vehicle capable of carrying ten (10) to fourteen  
11 (14) passengers plus an operator and used for personal use or on a not-for-hire basis. Passenger  
12 vans may be used for vanpools, transporting passengers to and from work locations, provided that  
13 the operator receives no remuneration other than free use of the vehicle.

14 (w) "Pedal carriages" (also known as "quadricycles") means a nonmotorized bicycle with  
15 four (4) or more wheels operated by one or more persons for the purpose of, or capable of,  
16 transporting additional passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of or otherwise attached  
17 to the pedal carriage. The term shall not include a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed  
18 to it, nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for the  
19 transportation of a handicapped person, nor shall it include a tricycle built for a child or an adult  
20 with a seat for only one operator and no passenger.

21 (x) "Pick-up camper": A camping recreational vehicle consisting of a roof, floor, and  
22 sides designed to be loaded onto and unloaded from the back of a pick-up truck.

23 (y) "Rickshaws" (also known as "pedi cabs") means a nonmotorized bicycle with three  
24 (3) wheels operated by one person for the purpose of, or capable of, transporting additional  
25 passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of, or otherwise attached to, the rickshaw. This  
26 definition shall not include a bicycle built for two (2) where the operators are seated one behind  
27 the other, nor shall it include the operation of a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed  
28 thereto, nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for  
29 the transportation of a handicapped person.

30 (z) "School bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency,  
31 when operated for the transportation of children to or from school; or privately owned, when  
32 operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

33 (aa) "Suburban vehicle" means every motor vehicle with a convertible or  
34 interchangeable body or with removable seats, usable for both passenger and delivery purposes,

1 and including motor vehicles commonly known as station or depot wagons or any vehicle into  
2 which access can be gained through the rear by means of a hatch or trunk and where the rear seats  
3 can be folded down to permit the carrying of articles as well as passengers.

4 (bb) "Tent trailer": A towable recreational vehicle that is mounted on wheels and  
5 constructed with collapsible partial side walls that fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold  
6 for use and that is eligible to be registered for highway use.

7 (cc) "Trackless trolley coach" means every motor vehicle that is propelled by electric  
8 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated on rails.

9 (dd) Travel trailer: A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding three hundred twenty  
10 (320) square feet in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle containing a towing  
11 mechanism that is mounted behind the tow vehicle's bumper and that is eligible to be registered  
12 for highway use.

13 (ee) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or  
14 may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary  
15 rails or tracks.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL CODE  
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1           This act would allow an applicant to obtain a "year of manufacture plate" from the  
2 division of motor vehicles or for a "year of manufacture plate" in the possession of the applicant  
3 to receive approval from the division to display such a plate on any vehicle more than twenty-five  
4 (25) years old.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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