

2019 -- H 5051

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Vella-Wilkinson, Morin, Solomon, and  
Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 09, 2019

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-17.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled  
2 "Registration of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-17.1. Courtesy plates.**

4 (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall design and issue under  
5 regulations that he or she deems appropriate, special courtesy automobile, veterans', motorcycle,  
6 and commercial registration plates to be used on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all  
7 commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than nine thousand pounds (9,000 lbs.) in  
8 lieu of other number plates, except for special courtesy veterans' plates to be used on passenger  
9 motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than  
10 twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.), and shall be issued in compliance with the provisions of  
11 §31-3-53. Special plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters or combinations of  
12 letters and numbers as the administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall prescribe, and  
13 shall be made of light-reflecting sheeting applied on a metal base, provided that no automobile set  
14 of plates shall contain more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination of letters and  
15 numbers, or less than two (2) letters, and that no motorcycle plate shall contain more than five (5)  
16 letters or more than five (5) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2) letters, and  
17 that a commercial courtesy plate shall be marked "commercial," and shall contain no more than  
18 six (6) letters or more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2)  
19 letters, and provided further, that there shall be no duplication of identification and the

1 administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall, in his or her discretion, refuse to issue any  
2 letter or combination of letters and numbers that might carry connotations offensive to good taste  
3 and decency. A special automobile or commercial courtesy plate shall be issued upon application  
4 using forms furnished by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles, and upon payment,  
5 in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a service charge of sixty  
6 dollars (\$60.00) for each issue and for each registration renewal. For motorcycles, a special  
7 courtesy plate shall be issued upon application using forms furnished by the division of motor  
8 vehicles, and upon payment, in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a  
9 service charge of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) for each issue and for each registration renewal. The  
10 service charge shall be paid to the administrator of the division of motor vehicles prior to the  
11 administrator's acceptance of the application. The Rhode Island state lottery commission shall not  
12 be required to pay the service charge for any special courtesy plate issued pursuant to this section  
13 for motor vehicles owned or used by the lottery commission, and may utilize the special courtesy  
14 plates on all types of vehicles owned or operated by the lottery commission.

15 (b) For any vehicle that is registered in accordance with § 31-1-3(a), the division of motor  
16 vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated by  
17 the administrator, a courtesy registration plate in accordance with the provisions of this section.

18 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 allow the division of motor vehicles to issue courtesy veterans' plates.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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