

2020 -- H 7413

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Caldwell, McEntee, Casimiro, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 31, 2020

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-25-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-25 entitled "Size,
2 Weight, and Load Limits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-25-2. Vehicles exempt from limitations.**

4 (a) The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to:

5 (1) Road machinery;

6 (2) Farm vehicles, including farm tractors, temporarily moved upon a highway;

7 (3) Any vehicle owned and operated by the Rhode Island public transit authority that is
8 designed for carrying passengers and is comprised of two (2) sections permanently joined by a
9 hinge mechanism or an articulated joint that allows vertical and horizontal movement and a
10 passage for riders moving from one section to the other;

11 (4) A vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as provided in this
12 chapter;

13 (5) Covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicles;

14 (6) Emergency vehicles with a weight limit of up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of
15 eighty-six thousand pounds (86,000 lbs.) or less than twenty-four thousand pounds (24,000 lbs.)
16 on a single steering axle; thirty-three thousand five hundred pounds (33,500 lbs.) on a single-
17 drive axle; sixty-two thousand pounds (62,000 lbs.) on a tandem axle; or fifty-two thousand
18 pounds (52,000 lbs.) on a tandem rear drive steer axle; ~~or~~

19 (7) Natural gas vehicles up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of eighty-two thousand

1 pounds (82,000 lbs.) by an amount that is equal to the difference between the weight of the
2 vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle; and the
3 weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system; or

4 (8) Any vehicle owned or operated by a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation used
5 exclusively for civic, patriotic, veteran, historic or educational parades, events, displays, or
6 educational purposes.

7 (b) The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to fire
8 apparatus acquired by a city or town within this state prior to July 1, 1999.

9 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 -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

1 This act would amend the vehicle size, weight, and load limit act by allowing Rhode
2 Island nonprofit corporations to operate oversized vehicles on holidays and weekends in order to
3 participate in parades and other civic, patriotic, historic and educational events and displays.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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