

2012 -- H 7160

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LC00648  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Messier, Johnston, DaSilva, San Bento, and E Coderre

Date Introduced: January 18, 2012

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-25-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-25 entitled "Size,  
2 Weight, and Load Limits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~31-25-30. Axle restriction on the Pawtucket River Bridge and the Sakonnet River~~  
4 ~~Bridge~~ Axle restriction on the Pawtucket River Bridge. [Repealed effective June 12, 2013.] -

5 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport or operate over or upon the Pawtucket River Bridge ~~or the~~  
6 ~~Sakonnet River Bridge~~, any single vehicle equipped with more than two (2) axles or any  
7 combination vehicle equipped with more than two (2) axles per unit except those listed in this  
8 section.

9 (b) The director of the department of transportation is directed to post signs to limit  
10 access as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section.

11 (c) The following vehicles shall be exempt from the provisions of this section: any and  
12 all emergency vehicles, state vehicles, municipal vehicles, truck tractors as defined in section 31-  
13 1-4 and Rhode Island public transit authority vehicles.

14 (d) For the purposes of this section, "carrier" means and includes any company or person  
15 who furthers their commercial or private enterprise by use of the vehicle.

16 (e) Any carrier operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of this section  
17 shall be fined three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the first offense, not to exceed five thousand  
18 dollars (\$5,000) for each and every subsequent offense. Monies collected in fines from violations  
19 of this section shall be placed into a restricted receipt account as provided for in subsection (g)

1 [herein.](#)

2 (f) Nothing in this provision shall waive or modify existing restrictions on the bridges as  
3 defined in section 31-25-27.

4 [\(g\) There is hereby created within the general fund a restricted receipt account entitled](#)  
5 [the "Pawtucket River and Division Street Bridge Account," the proceeds of which shall be used](#)  
6 [for the repair, maintenance, and restoration of all streets and roads directly used as a detour off of,](#)  
7 [from, and/or to the Division Street Bridge, as necessary, and to assist businesses affected and](#)  
8 [impacted by such detours. To the extent the funds in said account exceed the amounts needed to](#)  
9 [carry out the provisions of this subsection and of subsection \(h\) herein, such excessive funds shall](#)  
10 [be deposited into the general fund.](#)

11 [\(h\) The Division Street Bridge shall be inspected every six \(6\) months. Any costs](#)  
12 [associated with said bridge inspection shall be paid from the restricted receipt account provided](#)  
13 [for in subsection \(g\) herein.](#)

14 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 establish a restricted receipt account to pay for the repair, maintenance,  
2 and restoration of all streets and roads used as a detour off of, from, or to the Division Street  
3 Bridge. The account would be funded through fines collected from violations of Rhode Island  
4 General Laws section 31-25-30. This would also remove certain vehicle restrictions pertaining to  
5 the Sakonnet River Bridge.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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