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LC01291/SUB A
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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 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senator William A. Walaska

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-14.1-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14.1 entitled "Public
2 Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-14.1-1. Definitions.** -- Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
4 another meaning is expressed or is clearly apparent from the language or context:

5 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of operating authority issued to a public motor
6 vehicle;

7 (2) "Charter carrier" means a provider of transportation services to groups such as:
8 lodges, bands, athletic teams, schools or other travel groups, assembled by someone other than
9 the carrier who collectively contracts for the exclusive use of certain equipment for the duration
10 of a particular trip or tour. Charter carrier services shall also include transportation services
11 provided by employment agencies or employers to individuals in the context of providing
12 transportation to and from their place of employment;

13 (3) "Common carrier" as used in this chapter, means any person engaging in the business
14 of providing transportation services for compensation to passengers through the use of a public
15 motor vehicle as defined in this chapter;

16 (4) "Division" means the division of public utilities and carriers;

17 (5) "Driver" means any person operating a motor vehicle used for the transportation of
18 passengers which he or she owns or is operating with the expressed or implied consent of the
19 owner;

1 (6) "Person" means and includes any individual, partnership, corporation, or other
2 association of individuals;

3 (7) "Public motor vehicle" means and includes every motor vehicle for hire, other than a
4 jitney, as defined in section 39-13-1, or a taxicab or limited public motor vehicle, as defined in
5 section 39-14-1, used for transporting members of the general public for compensation in
6 unmarked vehicles at a predetermined or prearranged ~~rate or fee~~ charge to such points as may be
7 directed by the passenger. All vehicles operated under this chapter shall conform to specifications
8 established by the division. Transportation services provided by charter carriers, as defined in this
9 chapter, or by funeral homes in association with funeral services, and by ambulance companies
10 shall be exempt from this chapter;

11 (8) "Unmarked vehicles" means motor vehicles that do not display the transportation
12 company's name, address or telephone number, or any advertisements or commercial information
13 beyond that included by the vehicle's manufacturer on the vehicle's exterior surfaces.

14 (9) "Wheelchair accessible public motor vehicle" means a public motor vehicle designed
15 and equipped to allow the transportation of a person(s) who uses a wheelchair without requiring
16 that person(s) to be removed from the wheelchair, but such public motor vehicle is not restricted
17 to transporting only persons using wheelchairs.

18 SECTION 2. Section 39-14.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14.1 entitled "Public
19 Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **39-14.1-6. Operations of public motor vehicles.** -- No public motor vehicle shall be
21 operated from any taxicab stand on any public highway; nor shall the operator of it transport any
22 passenger for hire unless the transportation is requested by the passenger at an office of the owner
23 of the vehicle, either personally or by telephone and/or other electronic means. When solicited by
24 a prospective customer the certificate holder or its representative shall quote what the actual ~~rate~~
25 ~~or fee~~ charge for the requested transportation service will be prior to picking up the passenger(s).

26 The division shall establish and set a minimum allowable charge for public motor vehicle
27 services; provided, however, that such minimum charge shall be no less than thirty-five dollars
28 (\$35.00) per trip. The minimum allowable charge provisions of this section shall not apply to
29 public motor vehicle service coordinated by or paid for by a state department, authority or agency
30 on behalf of clients of said state department, authority or agency; provided, however, that the
31 state department, authority or agency requests the service no later than the day before the service
32 is to be rendered.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would establish a minimum charge for transportation services provided by public
2 motor vehicles, and would authorize the division of motor vehicles to set minimum standards for
3 the vehicles used.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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