

2015 -- H 5547

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-3-104. Special plate for Rhode Island public colleges and universities. -- (a) The**
4 administrator of the division of motor vehicles is empowered to make available special motor
5 vehicle registration plates for passenger vehicles based upon the various public nonprofit
6 institutions of higher education (Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College,
7 and/or the University of Rhode Island) for any motor vehicle eligible for registration as an
8 automobile or commercial vehicle having a gross weight of ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.) or
9 less.

10 (b) The special plate(s) shall be displayed upon the same registration number assigned to
11 the vehicle for which it was issued and shall be used in place of and in the same manner as the
12 registration plates issued to the vehicle. The original registration plates for the vehicle shall be
13 removed from the vehicle and the registration certificate for the plates shall be carried in the
14 vehicle, in accordance with § 31-3-9. The registration certificate shall be in effect for the special
15 plate. The administrator shall be authorized to retain newly issued plate numbers, at his or her
16 discretion, for the purpose of conducting auctions of the right to use and display those numbers
17 under such terms and conditions as the administrator may permit. Auction proceeds shall be
18 apportioned and distributed to each respective institution whose plates have been issued, in the
19 discretion of the administrator, in accordance with such agreements as may be entered into those

1 entities holding ownership rights to the logos. The administrator is hereby authorized to enter into
2 agreements for the use of the logos on Rhode Island registration plates.

3 (c) The respective public higher education institution's motor vehicle plates shall be the
4 same size as regular motor vehicle plates and shall be designed in conjunction with the division of
5 motor vehicles, with design approval by the Rhode Island state police.

6 (d) Each public higher education institution plate shall be subject to a minimum prepaid
7 order of at least nine hundred (900) plates per institution. The respective public higher education
8 institution plate shall not be issued unless the minimum order requirements are met by the
9 requesting institution. The initial order will be handled by the Rhode Island commissioner of
10 post-secondary education or his/her designee, and shall not be submitted to the division of motor
11 vehicles for production until the minimum order has been met and the proper paperwork
12 submitted to the division. The Rhode Island commissioner of post-secondary education, or his/her
13 designee, will act as program coordinator and point of contact for the department of motor
14 vehicles. Subsequent public higher education institution plate orders will be handled by the
15 division of motor vehicles.

16 (e) The administrator of motor vehicles shall develop application forms, prepayment
17 procedures and any other procedures deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

18 (f) In addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, public higher
19 education institution plates shall be subject to a forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge.

20 (g) The forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge shall be allocated as follows: twenty
21 dollars (\$20.00) shall be allocated to the general fund and the remaining twenty dollars (\$20.00)
22 shall be distributed annually to the respective public higher education institution as a nonprofit
23 educational institution based in Rhode Island.

24 (h) A ten dollar (\$10.00) surcharge for subsequent registration will go to the respective
25 public higher education institution.

26 (i) There shall be no refunds for early cancellation of public higher education institution
27 plates.

28 (j) Any respective public higher education institution not pursuing or not reaching the
29 minimum prepaid order of plates, as outlined in subsection (d) of this section, within thirty-six
30 (36) months after this section is enacted will not be eligible to obtain special motor vehicle
31 registration plates as outlined above, absent further action of the general assembly.

1 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 permit the division of motor vehicles to create a special registration plate
- 2 for state public colleges and universities.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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