

2016 -- H 7327

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Azzinaro, Hull, Bennett, and Naughton

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-17.4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled
2 "Registration of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-17.4. Firefighter plates.** -- (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles is
4 empowered and authorized to make available to all active firefighters and retired firefighters a
5 special motor vehicle registration plate for any motor vehicle eligible for registration as an
6 automobile or commercial vehicle having a gross weight of ~~ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.)~~
7 twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less.

8 (b) The special motor vehicle registration plate shall carry on it the designation
9 "Firefighter" and a Maltese cross with the design provided by the Rhode Island Association of
10 Fire Chiefs.

11 (c) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall issue the plate upon
12 payment of a service charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and a transfer charge of five dollars
13 (\$5.00) for the plate, of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be deposited to the division of motor
14 vehicles manufacturing account.

15 (d) The owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a commercial vehicle and
16 having a gross weight of six thousand three hundred pounds (6,300 lbs.) but not more than twelve
17 thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) shall sign an affidavit at the time of application for the plates being
18 requested, stating that the vehicle is to be used for personal use only.

19 ~~(d)~~(e) For the purpose of this section an active or retired member of any fire department

1 shall be defined as any person certified by the chief of the fire department as currently a member
2 of said department with at least one year active service or retired under honorable condition as a
3 firefighter.

4 ~~(e)~~(f) In a state of emergency, any active member of a fire department driving a vehicle
5 bearing the special motor vehicle registration plate shall be authorized and empowered to travel
6 upon the highways of the state notwithstanding any driving ban imposed by the state or municipal
7 authority in accordance with their official duties.

8 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 increase the automobile and commercial vehicle gross weight limitations
2 from ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.) or less to twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less for
3 the purposes of the special motor vehicle registration plate available to all active and retired
4 firefighters and further would require the owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a
5 commercial vehicle with a gross weight of six thousand three hundred pounds (6,300 lbs.) but not
6 more than twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) to sign an affidavit stating that the vehicle is to
7 be used for personal use only.

8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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