

2016 -- H 7622

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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 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, and Barros

Date Introduced: February 12, 2016

Referred To: House Corporations

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-14.1 of the General Laws entitled "Public Motor Vehicles" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-14.1-11. Registration and identification of public motor vehicles. -- (a) Every**  
4 **public motor vehicle engaged in the transportation of passengers for compensation over the**  
5 **highways of this state shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter, and shall apply to the**  
6 **administrator for the issuance of a vehicle identification device for the registration and**  
7 **identification of each vehicle being utilized in the transportation of passengers. The application**  
8 **shall be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each vehicle for**  
9 **which an application is made. The fee shall be in addition to the application fees required by §39-**  
10 **14.1-3. Transfers of devices from one vehicle to another are hereby prohibited unless authorized**  
11 **by the administrator.**

12 **(b) Each identification device shall be accompanied by a registration card issued by the**  
13 **administrator which shall be in the possession of the driver when operating the vehicle.**

14 **(c) The identification device shall be provided by the administrator upon the division**  
15 **granting a certificate following an initial application or upon renewal of a certificate by the**  
16 **division as provided in this chapter.**

17 **(d) It shall be unlawful for any public motor vehicle to be engaged in transporting**  
18 **passengers for compensation without the owner thereof having applied for and received the**  
19 **required device, unless the vehicle is exempted from the provisions of this chapter. Violations of**

1 this chapter may be punished by a civil penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for a first  
2 offense and up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each subsequent offense.

3 (e) In the event there are complaints filed and pending against the holder of an  
4 identification device, the administrator may refuse to reissue the device and registration if there is  
5 probable cause to find that the holder of the device is violating or has violated the rules and  
6 regulations relative to this chapter or is a danger to the general public. Upon refusing to reissue  
7 the identification device, the division shall notify the holder of the device by certified mail and  
8 shall afford them a hearing within ten (10) days of said notice. Any such hearing may be  
9 rescheduled by agreement or for good cause.

10 (f) The administrator shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations governing the  
11 registration and identification of motor vehicles authorized for operation under this chapter.

12 (g) All revenues received under this section shall be deposited as general revenues.

13 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 require all persons operating public motor vehicles to apply for a vehicle  
2 identification device for each vehicle so registered. All such devices would have to be carried by  
3 the driver of the vehicle which they are operating and would provide penalties for failure to do so.  
4 This act would further permit the public utilities administrator to refuse to reissue the  
5 identification device in the event complaints are filed which evidence probable cause of failure to  
6 abide by regulations or probable cause that the operator is a danger to the general public.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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