

1 **ARTICLE 8**

2 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

3 SECTION 1. Section 31-25-21 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-25 entitled "Size,
4 Weight, and Load Limits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 **31-25-21. Power to permit excess size or weight of loads. [Effective January 1, 2019.]**

6 (a) The department of transportation, with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may,
7 in its discretion, upon application in writing and good cause being shown for it, approve the
8 issuance of a special permit in writing by the division of motor vehicles authorizing the applicant
9 to operate or move a vehicle, or combination of vehicles, of a size or weight of vehicle or load
10 exceeding eighty thousand pounds (80,000 lbs.) or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions
11 of chapters 1 -- 27 of this title upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the party granting the
12 permit and for the maintenance of which the party is responsible. Permits that have been issued for
13 a full year shall not be required to be renewed for the period of time for which payment has been
14 made and the application and other required documentation has been completed and filed. Provided,
15 that neither the department of transportation nor the local authorities may approve the issuance of
16 permits for divisible loads weighing in excess of one hundred four thousand-eight hundred pounds
17 (104,800 lbs.), gross vehicle weight, for five-axle (5) vehicles and seventy-six thousand six hundred
18 fifty pounds (76,650 lbs.), gross vehicle weight, for three-axle (3) vehicles.

19 (1) Provided, however, that for milk products, any vehicle carrying fluid milk products
20 shall be considered a load that cannot be easily dismantled or divided.

21 (b) The director of the department of transportation may enter into agreements with other
22 states, the District of Columbia, and Canadian provinces providing for the reciprocal enforcement
23 of the overweight or over-dimensional vehicle permit laws of those jurisdictions entering into the
24 agreement.

25 (c) Trip permit fee. A fee of ~~twenty dollars (\$20.00)~~ forty dollars (\$40.00) shall be paid to
26 the division of motor vehicles for the issuance of each non-reducible vehicle or load permit;
27 provided, however, applicants seeking a permit for a non-divisible load exceeding one hundred
28 thirty thousand pounds (130,000 lbs.) shall pay a fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to the
29 division of motor vehicles for consideration of a special trip permit approved by the department of
30 transportation pursuant to subsection (e).

1 (d) Annual fee. An annual fee of ~~three hundred dollars (\$300)~~ four hundred dollars (\$400)
2 paid to the division of motor vehicles shall exempt the payor from the necessity of paying trip
3 permit fees for non-divisible loads of less than one hundred thirty thousand pounds (130,000 lbs.)
4 as found in subsection (c). However, payment of the fee shall not be deemed to authorize non-
5 compliance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the department of transportation entitled
6 "State of Rhode Island Manual for Overweight and Oversize Vehicle Permits".

7 (e) Blanket construction equipment permits may be issued, as determined by the
8 department of transportation, for intrastate movement of non-reducible loads upon payment of the
9 fee set forth in subsection (d). The duration of the blanket permit may not exceed one year, and the
10 construction equipment permit load shall be limited to a minimum overall length of fifty-five feet
11 (55'), a maximum overall length of eighty feet (80'), and a maximum width of twelve feet four
12 inches (12' 4"), provided that neither the division of motor vehicles nor local authorities may issue
13 blanket permits for non-divisible loads weighing in excess of one hundred thirty thousand pounds
14 (130,000 lbs.) on less than six (6) axles, with individual axle weights exceeding twenty-five
15 thousand pounds (25,000 lbs.); provided, further, that the department of transportation, with respect
16 to highways under its jurisdiction, may, in its discretion and upon application and for good cause
17 shown, approve the issuance of a special trip permit authorizing the applicant to exceed one hundred
18 thirty thousand pounds (130,000 lbs.) for non-divisible loads. A flashing amber light shall be in
19 operation above the highest point of the vehicle and shall be visible from both the front and rear of
20 the vehicle; and signs and red warning flags shall be affixed to all extremities. All blanket permits
21 issued in accordance with this section shall be effective during daylight and night-time hours for
22 all over-dimensional moves made and travel shall be allowed on state highways. The following
23 restrictions on travel times shall apply to:

24 (1) Freeways -- in general.

25 No travel will be allowed between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am or between 3:00 pm
26 and 7:00 pm on any day of the week.

27 (2) Arterial roadways.

28 No travel will be allowed between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am or between 3:00 pm
29 and 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

30 (3) Holidays.

31 Memorial Day, Victory Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day -- No Saturday, Sunday, or
32 Monday day or night travel.

33 Thanksgiving Day -- No Wednesday night or Thursday day or night travel. No travel on
34 Wednesday through Sunday of Thanksgiving week in any calendar year.

1 Independence Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day -- No day or night travel and no travel
2 the previous night.

3 Easter Sunday. No Saturday night or Sunday travel.

4 (f) Construction equipment blanket permits shall not be granted for travel over the
5 following bridges:

6 Blackstone River Viaduct 750 carrying I-295 northbound and southbound over the
7 Blackstone River;

8 Kingston Road Bridge No. 403 carrying I-95 northbound and southbound over Kingston
9 Road.

10 (g) Travel of blanket permitted construction equipment through zones with reductions in
11 lane width such as construction zones will not be allowed. Prior to travel, blanket permit holders
12 are responsible to verify the location of construction zones and lane width reductions. Locations of
13 lane width reduction zones are available through the state department of transportation's
14 construction office.

15 SECTION 2. Sections 39-18.1-4 and 39-18.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-18.1
16 entitled "Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011" are hereby amended to read
17 as follows:

18 **39-18.1-4. Rhode Island highway maintenance account created.**

19 (a) There is hereby created a special account in the intermodal surface transportation fund
20 as established in § 31-36-20 that is to be known as the Rhode Island highway maintenance account.

21 (b) The fund shall consist of all those moneys that the state may from time to time direct
22 to the fund, including, but not necessarily limited to, moneys derived from the following sources:

23 (1) There is imposed a surcharge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per vehicle or truck, other than
24 those with specific registrations set forth below in subsection (b)(1)(i). Such surcharge shall be paid
25 by each vehicle or truck owner in order to register that owner's vehicle or truck and upon each
26 subsequent biennial registration. This surcharge shall be phased in at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00)
27 each year. The total surcharge will be ten dollars (\$10.00) from July 1, 2013, through June 30,
28 2014, twenty dollars (\$20.00) from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and thirty dollars (\$30.00)
29 from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and each year thereafter.

30 (i) For owners of vehicles or trucks with the following plate types, the surcharge shall be
31 as set forth below and shall be paid in full in order to register the vehicle or truck and upon each
32 subsequent renewal:

33 Plate Type	Surcharge
34 Antique	\$5.00

1	Farm	\$10.00
2	Motorcycle	\$13.00

3 (ii) For owners of trailers, the surcharge shall be one-half (1/2) of the biennial registration
4 amount and shall be paid in full in order to register the trailer and upon each subsequent renewal.

5 (2) There is imposed a surcharge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per vehicle or truck, other than
6 those with specific registrations set forth in subsection (b)(2)(i) below, for those vehicles or trucks
7 subject to annual registration, to be paid annually by each vehicle or truck owner in order to register
8 that owner's vehicle or truck and upon each subsequent annual registration. This surcharge will be
9 phased in at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) each year. The total surcharge will be five dollars (\$5.00)
10 from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, ten dollars (\$10.00) from July 1, 2014, through June 30,
11 2015, and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and each year
12 thereafter.

13 (i) For registrations of the following plate types, the surcharge shall be as set forth below
14 and shall be paid in full in order to register the plate, and upon each subsequent renewal:

15	Plate Type	Surcharge
16	Boat Dealer	\$6.25
17	Cycle Dealer	\$6.25
18	In-transit	\$5.00
19	Manufacturer	\$5.00
20	New Car Dealer	\$5.00
21	Used Car Dealer	\$5.00
22	Racer Tow	\$5.00
23	Transporter	\$5.00
24	Bailee	\$5.00

25 (ii) For owners of trailers, the surcharge shall be one-half (1/2) of the annual registration
26 amount and shall be paid in full in order to register the trailer and upon each subsequent renewal.

27 (iii) For owners of school buses, the surcharge will be phased in at the rate of six dollars
28 and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) each year. The total surcharge will be six dollars and twenty-five
29 cents (\$6.25) from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50)
30 from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and each year thereafter.

31 (3) There is imposed a surcharge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per license to operate a motor
32 vehicle to be paid every five (5) years by each licensed operator of a motor vehicle. This surcharge
33 will be phased in at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) each year. The total surcharge will be ten dollars
34 (\$10.00) from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, twenty dollars (\$20.00) from July 1, 2014,

1 through June 30, 2015, and thirty dollars (\$30.00) from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and
2 each year thereafter. In the event that a license is issued or renewed for a period of less than five
3 (5) years, the surcharge will be prorated according to the period of time the license will be valid;

4 (4) All fees assessed pursuant to § 31-47.1-11, and chapters 3, 6, 10, and 10.1 of title 31,
5 except for fees assessed pursuant to §§ 31-10-31(6) and (8), shall be deposited into the Rhode Island
6 highway maintenance account, provided that for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 these fees be
7 transferred as follows:

8 (i) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, twenty-five percent (25%) will be deposited;

9 (ii) From July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, fifty percent (50%) will be deposited; and

10 (iii) From July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, sixty percent (60%) will be deposited;

11 (iv) From July 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, one hundred percent (100%) will be
12 deposited;

13 (5) All remaining funds from previous general obligation bond issues that have not
14 otherwise been allocated.

15 (c) Effective July 1, 2019, ninety-five percent (95%) of ~~At~~ all funds collected pursuant to
16 this section shall be deposited in the Rhode Island highway maintenance account and shall be used
17 only for the purposes set forth in this chapter. The remaining funds shall be retained as general
18 revenues to partially offset cost of collections.

19 (d) Unexpended balances and any earnings thereon shall not revert to the general fund but
20 shall remain in the Rhode Island highway maintenance account. There shall be no requirement that
21 monies received into the Rhode Island highway maintenance account during any given calendar
22 year or fiscal year be expended during the same calendar year or fiscal year.

23 (e) The Rhode Island highway maintenance account shall be administered by the director,
24 who shall allocate and spend monies from the fund only in accordance with the purposes and
25 procedures set forth in this chapter.

26 **39-18.1-5. Allocation of funds.**

27 (a) The monies in the highway maintenance fund to be directed to the department of
28 transportation pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be allocated through the
29 transportation improvement program process to provide the state match for federal transportation
30 funds, in place of borrowing, as approved by the state planning council. The expenditure of moneys
31 in the highway maintenance fund shall only be authorized for projects that appear in the state's
32 transportation improvement program.

33 (b) Provided, however, that beginning with fiscal year 2015 and annually thereafter, the
34 department of transportation will allocate necessary funding to programs that are designed to

1 eliminate structural deficiencies of the state's bridge, road, and maintenance systems and
2 infrastructure.

3 (c) Provided, further, that beginning July 1, 2015, five percent (5%) of available proceeds
4 in the Rhode Island highway maintenance account shall be allocated annually to the Rhode Island
5 public transit authority for operating expenditures.

6 (d) Provided, further, that from July 1, 2017, ~~through June 30, 2019~~ and annually thereafter,
7 in addition to the amount above, the Rhode Island public transit authority shall receive an amount
8 of not less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) each fiscal year.

9 (e) Provided, further, that the Rhode Island public transit authority shall convene a
10 coordinating council consisting of those state agencies responsible for meeting the needs of low-
11 income seniors and persons with disabilities, along with those stakeholders that the authority deems
12 appropriate and are necessary to inform, develop, and implement the federally required
13 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

14 The council shall develop, as part of the state's federally required plan, recommendations
15 for the appropriate and sustainable funding of the free-fare program for low-income seniors and
16 persons with disabilities, while maximizing the use of federal funds available to support the
17 transportation needs of this population.

18 The council shall report these recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the house
19 of representatives, and the president of the senate no later than November 1, 2018.

20 SECTION 3. This article shall take effect upon passage.

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