

2021 -- H 5962

LC002224

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- TRANSFER OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Costantino, Corvese, Cardillo, McEntee, and Batista

Date Introduced: February 26, 2021

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 31-4-1 and 31-4-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-4 entitled  
2 "Transfer of Vehicles" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-4-1. Expiration of registration by transfer of interest in vehicle -- Disposition of**  
4 **plates.**

5 Whenever the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or assigns his or her title or interest  
6 in ownership, or whenever he or she shall request the transfer of the registration to another vehicle  
7 owned by him or her, or shall remove the vehicle from the highways of this state to be used solely  
8 upon his or her property, the registration of the vehicle shall expire. Provided however, any lessee  
9 of a motor vehicle, who purchases the vehicle that is subject to the lease agreement within one year  
10 of the inception of the lease agreement or any renewal thereof, shall not be subject to the registration  
11 expiration provisions of this section and the registration assigned to the leased vehicle shall be  
12 deemed transferred to the lessee/owner without any new fee or charge. The owner shall remove  
13 the registration plates from the vehicle and forward them to the division of motor vehicles, or may  
14 have such plates and the registration number thereon assigned to another vehicle upon payment of  
15 the fees required by law and subject to the rules and regulations of the division of motor vehicles.  
16 Any corporation or limited liability company in the business of providing vehicle leasing or vehicle  
17 rental may cancel a registration by submitting a sworn, notarized affidavit to the division of motor  
18 vehicles stating that the registration plates are unavailable due to loss, theft, or other reasons.

19 **31-4-4. Registration by transferee.**

1           The transferee before operating or permitting the operation of an acquired vehicle upon a  
2 highway shall apply for and obtain the registration for it, as upon an original registration, except as  
3 otherwise permitted in §§ 31-4-5 -- 31-4-7. Provided however, any lessee of a motor vehicle, who  
4 purchases the vehicle subject to the lease agreement within one year of the inception of the lease  
5 agreement or any renewal thereof, shall not be subject to the registration provisions of this section  
6 and the registration assigned to the leased vehicle shall be deemed transferred to the lessee/owner  
7 without any new fee or charge.

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 provide that a lessee of a motor vehicle who purchases the vehicle within  
2 one year of the lease inception or any renewal thereof shall be exempt from certain registration  
3 transfer provisions.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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