

**2021 -- H 6434 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC002889/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Introduced By: Representative Robert D. Phillips

Date Introduced: June 16, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

(Department of Transportation)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 31-25-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-25 entitled "Size,  
2 Weight, and Load Limits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **31-25-27. ~~Weight restrictions on state highways. Weigh restrictions.~~**

4           (a) State Highways. The state traffic commission shall likewise have authority, as granted  
5 to local authorities in this chapter, to determine by resolution and to impose restrictions as to the  
6 weight of vehicles operated upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the commission, and the  
7 restrictions shall be effective when signs giving notice of them are erected upon the highway or  
8 portion of any highway affected by the resolution.

9           (b) Penalties for posted bridge weight violations shall be based on the fine schedule  
10 imposed within the provisions of § 31-25-16.

11           (c) Bridges. the department of transportation, through the state traffic commission, shall  
12 have the authority with respect to any state, local, or privately-owned bridge, excluding those  
13 owned/or controlled by Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority, to impose a weight restriction  
14 or close a bridge, based on deficiencies documented in a bridge inspection or load rating for the  
15 purpose of public safety. Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority shall have the authority for  
16 bridges owned/or controlled by Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority to impose a weight  
17 restriction or close a bridge, based on deficiencies documented in a bridge inspection or load rating  
18 for the purpose of public safety.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

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1           This act would authorize the department of transportation to impose a weight restriction or  
2 close any state, local or privately-owned bridge, in the interest of public safety.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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