

2022 -- H 7317

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Noret, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 02, 2022

Referred To: House Special Legislation

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-17.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled "Registration
2 of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-17.1. Courtesy plates.**

4 (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall design and issue under
5 regulations that he or she deems appropriate, special courtesy automobile, motorcycle, and
6 commercial registration plates to be used on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all
7 commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than nine thousand pounds (9,000 lbs.) in lieu
8 of other number plates, except special courtesy veterans' plates may be issued and used on
9 passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more
10 than twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.), in compliance with the provisions of § 31-3-53. Special
11 plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters or combinations of letters and numbers as
12 the administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall prescribe, and shall be made of light-
13 reflecting sheeting applied on a metal base, provided that no automobile set of plates shall contain
14 more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination of letters and numbers, or less than two (2)
15 letters, and that no motorcycle plate shall contain more than five (5) letters or more than five (5)
16 letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2) letters, and that a commercial courtesy
17 plate shall be marked "commercial," and shall contain no more than six (6) letters or more than six
18 (6) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2) letters, and provided further, that there
19 shall be no duplication of identification and the administrator of the division of motor vehicles

1 shall, in his or her discretion, refuse to issue any letter or combination of letters and numbers that
2 might carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency. A special automobile or commercial
3 courtesy plate shall be issued upon application using forms furnished by the administrator of the
4 division of motor vehicles, and upon payment, in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle
5 registration fee, a service charge of sixty dollars (\$60.00) for each issue and for each registration
6 renewal. For motorcycles, a special courtesy plate shall be issued upon application using forms
7 furnished by the division of motor vehicles, and upon payment, in addition to the regular prescribed
8 motor vehicle registration fee, a service charge of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) for each issue and for
9 each registration renewal. The service charge shall be paid to the administrator of the division of
10 motor vehicles prior to the administrator's acceptance of the application. The Rhode Island state
11 lottery commission shall not be required to pay the service charge for any special courtesy plate
12 issued pursuant to this section for motor vehicles owned or used by the lottery commission, and
13 may utilize the special courtesy plates on all types of vehicles owned or operated by the lottery
14 commission.

15 (b) For any vehicle that is registered in accordance with § 31-1-3(a), the division of motor
16 vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated by
17 the administrator, a courtesy registration plate in accordance with the provisions of this section.

18 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 expand the classes of licensed vehicles eligible to obtain courtesy veterans'
2 plates, to include vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of up to twelve thousand pounds (12,000
3 lbs.).

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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