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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES --  
REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representative Teresa A. Tanzi

Date Introduced: April 28, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **31-3-31.4. Registration of commercial fishing motor vehicles.**

4           (a) A motor vehicle may be registered under this section if it is essential to a commercial  
5 fishing business. A vehicle is essential to the commercial fishing business if it is necessary and  
6 indispensable to performing the particular and required tasks of commercial fishing. A qualifying  
7 vehicle shall be used by the owner, family member(s), employee(s), or designees of the owner in  
8 the conduct of the owner's commercial fishing business. A qualifying motor vehicle includes a  
9 vehicle used for the delivery of commercial fishing business products of the commercial fishing  
10 business, but shall not include any vehicle used primarily for personal use or for commercial hire  
11 for non-fishing purposes. Commercial fishing shall have the same definition as the term is defined  
12 in § 44-18-30(26).

13           (b) The division of motor vehicles shall develop a form for registration of commercial  
14 fishing motor vehicles in accordance with this section. The registration form shall include a  
15 statement under oath that the vehicle qualifies under this section, and require the applicant to  
16 provide any form of proof requested by the division. If the registration is approved, the commercial  
17 fishing vehicle shall be assigned a special number plate with a suitable symbol or letter indicating  
18 the usage of the vehicle for commercial fishing business.

- 1 [\(c\) Commercial fishing business plates may not be utilized on:](#)  
2 [\(1\) Vehicles eligible for registration as private passenger automobiles; or](#)  
3 [\(2\) On any vehicle that is not essential to a commercial fishing business.](#)  
4 [\(d\) The director of the division of motor vehicles may promulgate any rules and regulations](#)  
5 [deemed necessary for the inspection of commercial fishing vehicles registered under this section.](#)

6 SECTION 3. Section 44-18-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-18 entitled "Sales and  
7 Use Taxes — Liability and Computation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **44-18-30. Gross receipts exempt from sales and use taxes.**

9 There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this chapter the following gross receipts:

10 (1) Sales and uses beyond constitutional power of state. From the sale and from the storage,  
11 use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property the gross receipts from the sale  
12 of which, or the storage, use, or other consumption of which, this state is prohibited from taxing  
13 under the Constitution of the United States or under the constitution of this state.

14 (2) Newspapers.

15 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of any  
16 newspaper.

17 (ii) "Newspaper" means an unbound publication printed on newsprint that contains news,  
18 editorial comment, opinions, features, advertising matter, and other matters of public interest.

19 (iii) "Newspaper" does not include a magazine, handbill, circular, flyer, sales catalog, or  
20 similar item unless the item is printed for, and distributed as, a part of a newspaper.

21 (3) School meals. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this  
22 state of meals served by public, private, or parochial schools, school districts, colleges, universities,  
23 student organizations, and parent-teacher associations to the students or teachers of a school,  
24 college, or university whether the meals are served by the educational institutions or by a food  
25 service or management entity under contract to the educational institutions.

26 (4) Containers.

27 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of:

28 (A) Non-returnable containers, including boxes, paper bags, and wrapping materials that  
29 are biodegradable and all bags and wrapping materials utilized in the medical and healing arts,  
30 when sold without the contents to persons who place the contents in the container and sell the  
31 contents with the container.

32 (B) Containers when sold with the contents if the sale price of the contents is not required  
33 to be included in the measure of the taxes imposed by this chapter.

34 (C) Returnable containers when sold with the contents in connection with a retail sale of

1 the contents or when resold for refilling.

2 (D) Keg and barrel containers, whether returnable or not, when sold to alcoholic beverage  
3 producers who place the alcoholic beverages in the containers.

4 (ii) As used in this subdivision, the term “returnable containers” means containers of a kind  
5 customarily returned by the buyer of the contents for reuse. All other containers are “non-returnable  
6 containers.”

7 (5)(i) Charitable, educational, and religious organizations. From the sale to, as in defined  
8 in this section, and from the storage, use, and other consumption in this state, or any other state of  
9 the United States of America, of tangible personal property by hospitals not operated for a profit;  
10 “educational institutions” as defined in subdivision (18) not operated for a profit; churches,  
11 orphanages, and other institutions or organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable  
12 purposes; interest-free loan associations not operated for profit; nonprofit, organized sporting  
13 leagues and associations and bands for boys and girls under the age of nineteen (19) years; the  
14 following vocational student organizations that are state chapters of national vocational student  
15 organizations: Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA); Future Business Leaders of  
16 America, Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA/PBL); Future Farmers of America (FFA); Future Homemakers  
17 of America/Home Economics Related Occupations (FHA/HERD); Vocational Industrial Clubs of  
18 America (VICA); organized nonprofit golden age and senior citizens clubs for men and women;  
19 and parent-teacher associations; and from the sale, storage, use, and other consumption in this state,  
20 of and by the Industrial Foundation of Burrillville, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation.

21 (ii) In the case of contracts entered into with the federal government, its agencies, or  
22 instrumentalities, this state, or any other state of the United States of America, its agencies, any  
23 city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the states; hospitals not operated for profit;  
24 educational institutions not operated for profit; churches, orphanages, and other institutions or  
25 organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, the contractor may purchase  
26 such materials and supplies (materials and/or supplies are defined as those that are essential to the  
27 project) that are to be utilized in the construction of the projects being performed under the contracts  
28 without payment of the tax.

29 (iii) The contractor shall not charge any sales or use tax to any exempt agency, institution,  
30 or organization but shall in that instance provide his or her suppliers with certificates in the form  
31 as determined by the division of taxation showing the reason for exemption and the contractor’s  
32 records must substantiate the claim for exemption by showing the disposition of all property so  
33 purchased. If any property is then used for a nonexempt purpose, the contractor must pay the tax  
34 on the property used.

1 (6) Gasoline. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state  
2 of: (i) Gasoline and other products taxed under chapter 36 of title 31 and (ii) Fuels used for the  
3 propulsion of airplanes.

4 (7) Purchase for manufacturing purposes.

5 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of computer  
6 software, tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, and  
7 water, when the property or service is purchased for the purpose of being manufactured into a  
8 finished product for resale and becomes an ingredient, component, or integral part of the  
9 manufactured, compounded, processed, assembled, or prepared product, or if the property or  
10 service is consumed in the process of manufacturing for resale computer software, tangible personal  
11 property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water.

12 (ii) "Consumed" means destroyed, used up, or worn out to the degree or extent that the  
13 property cannot be repaired, reconditioned, or rendered fit for further manufacturing use.

14 (iii) "Consumed" includes mere obsolescence.

15 (iv) "Manufacturing" means and includes: manufacturing, compounding, processing,  
16 assembling, preparing, or producing.

17 (v) "Process of manufacturing" means and includes all production operations performed in  
18 the producing or processing room, shop, or plant, insofar as the operations are a part of and  
19 connected with the manufacturing for resale of tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas,  
20 artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water and all production operations performed insofar as the  
21 operations are a part of and connected with the manufacturing for resale of computer software.

22 (vi) "Process of manufacturing" does not mean or include administration operations such  
23 as general office operations, accounting, collection, or sales promotion, nor does it mean or include  
24 distribution operations that occur subsequent to production operations, such as handling, storing,  
25 selling, and transporting the manufactured products, even though the administration and  
26 distribution operations are performed by, or in connection with, a manufacturing business.

27 (8) State and political subdivisions. From the sale to, and from the storage, use, or other  
28 consumption by, this state, any city, town, district, or other political subdivision of this state. Every  
29 redevelopment agency created pursuant to chapter 31 of title 45 is deemed to be a subdivision of  
30 the municipality where it is located.

31 (9) Food and food ingredients. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this  
32 state of food and food ingredients as defined in § 44-18-7.1().

33 For the purposes of this exemption "food and food ingredients" shall not include candy,  
34 soft drinks, dietary supplements, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food sold through vending

1 machines, or prepared food, as those terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1, unless the prepared food is:

2 (i) Sold by a seller whose primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in sector 311,  
3 except sub-sector 3118 (bakeries);

4 (ii) Sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item;

5 (iii) Bakery items, including: bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries,  
6 donuts, danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, tortillas; and

7 is not sold with utensils provided by the seller, including: plates, knives, forks, spoons,  
8 glasses, cups, napkins, or straws.

9 (10) Medicines, drugs, and durable medical equipment. From the sale and from the storage,  
10 use, or other consumption in this state, of:

11 (i) "Drugs" as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(i), sold on prescriptions, medical oxygen, and  
12 insulin whether or not sold on prescription. For purposes of this exemption drugs shall not include  
13 over-the-counter drugs and grooming and hygiene products as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(iii).

14 (ii) Durable medical equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(k) for home use only, including,  
15 but not limited to: syringe infusers, ambulatory drug delivery pumps, hospital beds, convalescent  
16 chairs, and chair lifts. Supplies used in connection with syringe infusers and ambulatory drug  
17 delivery pumps that are sold on prescription to individuals to be used by them to dispense or  
18 administer prescription drugs, and related ancillary dressings and supplies used to dispense or  
19 administer prescription drugs, shall also be exempt from tax.

20 (11) Prosthetic devices and mobility enhancing equipment. From the sale and from the  
21 storage, use, or other consumption in this state, of prosthetic devices as defined in § 44-18-7.1(t),  
22 sold on prescription, including, but not limited to: artificial limbs, dentures, spectacles, eyeglasses,  
23 and artificial eyes; artificial hearing devices and hearing aids, whether or not sold on prescription;  
24 and mobility enhancing equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(p), including wheelchairs, crutches,  
25 and canes.

26 (12) Coffins, caskets, urns, shrouds and burial garments. From the sale and from the  
27 storage, use, or other consumption in this state of coffins, caskets, burial containers, urns, urn liners,  
28 urn vaults, grave liners, grave vaults, burial tent setups, prayer cards, shrouds, and other burial  
29 garments that are ordinarily sold by a funeral director as part of the business of funeral directing.

30 (13) Motor vehicles sold to nonresidents.

31 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 1958, of a motor vehicle to a bona fide nonresident  
32 of this state who does not register the motor vehicle in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the  
33 motor vehicle is made in this state or at the place of residence of the nonresident. A motor vehicle  
34 sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to its

1 nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20. In that event, the bona fide  
2 nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate that would be imposed  
3 in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been imposed under § 44-18-  
4 20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed motor vehicle dealer shall add and  
5 collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit the tax to the tax administrator under the  
6 provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. When a Rhode Island licensed, motor vehicle dealer  
7 is required to add and collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a motor vehicle to a bona fide  
8 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the  
9 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

10 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may  
11 require any licensed motor vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide nonresidents as the  
12 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this  
13 subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed motor vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the  
14 motor vehicle was the holder of, and had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state motor vehicle  
15 registration or a valid out-of-state driver's license.

16 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a motor vehicle in this state within ninety (90) days of  
17 the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the motor vehicle for use, storage, or  
18 other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable for, the use tax imposed under the  
19 provisions of § 44-18-20.

20 (14) Sales in public buildings by blind people. From the sale and from the storage, use, or  
21 other consumption in all public buildings in this state of all products or wares by any person  
22 licensed under § 40-9-11.1.

23 (15) Air and water pollution control facilities. From the sale, storage, use, or other  
24 consumption in this state of tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation into  
25 or used and consumed in the operation of a facility, the primary purpose of which is to aid in the  
26 control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air of the state, as defined in chapter 12  
27 of title 46 and chapter 23 of title 23, respectively, and that has been certified as approved for that  
28 purpose by the director of environmental management. The director of environmental management  
29 may certify to a portion of the tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation  
30 into those facilities or used and consumed in the operation of those facilities to the extent that that  
31 portion has as its primary purpose the control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air  
32 of this state. As used in this subdivision, "facility" means any land, facility, device, building,  
33 machinery, or equipment.

34 (16) Camps. From the rental charged for living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping

1 accommodations at camps or retreat houses operated by religious, charitable, educational, or other  
2 organizations and associations mentioned in subsection (5), or by privately owned and operated  
3 summer camps for children.

4 (17) Certain institutions. From the rental charged for living or sleeping quarters in an  
5 institution licensed by the state for the hospitalization, custodial, or nursing care of human beings.

6 (18) Educational institutions. From the rental charged by any educational institution for  
7 living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping accommodations or other rooms or accommodations  
8 to any student or teacher necessitated by attendance at an educational institution. "Educational  
9 institution" as used in this section means an institution of learning not operated for profit that is  
10 empowered to confer diplomas, educational, literary, or academic degrees; that has a regular  
11 faculty, curriculum, and organized body of pupils or students in attendance throughout the usual  
12 school year; that keeps and furnishes to students and others records required and accepted for  
13 entrance to schools of secondary, collegiate, or graduate rank; and no part of the net earnings of  
14 which inures to the benefit of any individual.

15 (19) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities.

16 (i) From the sale of: (A) Special adaptations; (B) The component parts of the special  
17 adaptations; or (C) A specially adapted motor vehicle; provided that the owner furnishes to the tax  
18 administrator an affidavit of a licensed physician to the effect that the specially adapted motor  
19 vehicle is necessary to transport a family member with a disability or where the vehicle has been  
20 specially adapted to meet the specific needs of the person with a disability. This exemption applies  
21 to not more than one motor vehicle owned and registered for personal, noncommercial use.

22 (ii) For the purpose of this subsection the term "special adaptations" includes, but is not  
23 limited to: wheelchair lifts, wheelchair carriers, wheelchair ramps, wheelchair securements, hand  
24 controls, steering devices, extensions, relocations, and crossovers of operator controls, power-  
25 assisted controls, raised tops or dropped floors, raised entry doors, or alternative signaling devices  
26 to auditory signals.

27 (iii) From the sale of: (a) Special adaptations, (b) The component parts of the special  
28 adaptations, for a "wheelchair accessible taxicab" as defined in § 39-14-1, and/or a "wheelchair  
29 accessible public motor vehicle" as defined in § 39-14.1-1.

30 (iv) For the purpose of this subdivision the exemption for a "specially adapted motor  
31 vehicle" means a use tax credit not to exceed the amount of use tax that would otherwise be due on  
32 the motor vehicle, exclusive of any adaptations. The use tax credit is equal to the cost of the special  
33 adaptations, including installation.

34 (20) Heating fuels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this

1 state of every type of heating fuel.

2 (21) Electricity and gas. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in  
3 this state of electricity and gas.

4 (22) Manufacturing machinery and equipment.

5 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tools, dies,  
6 molds, machinery, equipment (including replacement parts), and related items to the extent used in  
7 an industrial plant in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible  
8 personal property, or to the extent used in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or  
9 processing of computer software as that term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373  
10 in the standard industrial classification manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial  
11 Classification, Office of Statistical Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States  
12 Bureau of the Budget, as revised from time to time, to be sold, or that machinery and equipment  
13 used in the furnishing of power to an industrial manufacturing plant. For the purposes of this  
14 subdivision, "industrial plant" means a factory at a fixed location primarily engaged in the  
15 manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property to be sold in the regular  
16 course of business;

17 (ii) Machinery and equipment and related items are not deemed to be used in connection  
18 with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property, or in  
19 connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software as that  
20 term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373 in the standard industrial classification  
21 manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification, Office of Statistical  
22 Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States Bureau of the Budget, as revised from  
23 time to time, to be sold to the extent the property is used in administration or distribution operations;

24 (iii) Machinery and equipment and related items used in connection with the actual  
25 manufacture, conversion, or processing of any computer software or any tangible personal property  
26 that is not to be sold and that would be exempt under subdivision (7) or this subdivision if purchased  
27 from a vendor or machinery and equipment and related items used during any manufacturing,  
28 converting, or processing function is exempt under this subdivision even if that operation, function,  
29 or purpose is not an integral or essential part of a continuous production flow or manufacturing  
30 process;

31 (iv) Where a portion of a group of portable or mobile machinery is used in connection with  
32 the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software or tangible personal  
33 property to be sold, as previously defined, that portion, if otherwise qualifying, is exempt under  
34 this subdivision even though the machinery in that group is used interchangeably and not otherwise



1 identifiable as to use.

2 (23) Trade-in value of motor vehicles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
3 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used automobile as is  
4 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the automobile of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of  
5 the proceeds applicable only to the automobile as are received from the manufacturer of  
6 automobiles for the repurchase of the automobile whether the repurchase was voluntary or not  
7 towards the purchase of a new or used automobile by the buyer. For the purpose of this subdivision,  
8 the word “automobile” means a private passenger automobile not used for hire and does not refer  
9 to any other type of motor vehicle.

10 (24) Precious metal bullion.

11 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of precious  
12 metal bullion, substantially equivalent to a transaction in securities or commodities.

13 (ii) For purposes of this subdivision, “precious metal bullion” means any elementary  
14 precious metal that has been put through a process of smelting or refining, including, but not limited  
15 to: gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and chromium, and that is in a state or condition that its value  
16 depends upon its content and not upon its form.

17 (iii) The term does not include fabricated precious metal that has been processed or  
18 manufactured for some one or more specific and customary industrial, professional, or artistic uses.

19 (25) Commercial vessels. From sales made to a commercial ship, barge, or other vessel of  
20 fifty (50) tons burden or over, primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and from the  
21 repair, alteration, or conversion of the vessels, and from the sale of property purchased for the use  
22 of the vessels including provisions, supplies, and material for the maintenance and/or repair of the  
23 vessels.

24 (26) Commercial fishing vessels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
25 consumption in this state of vessels and other watercraft that are in excess of five (5) net tons and  
26 that are used exclusively for “commercial fishing,” as defined in this subdivision, and from the  
27 repair, alteration, or conversion of those vessels and other watercraft, and from the sale of property  
28 purchased for the use of those vessels and other watercraft including provisions, supplies, and  
29 material for the maintenance and/or repair of the vessels and other watercraft and the boats nets,  
30 cables, tackle, and other fishing equipment appurtenant to or used in connection with the  
31 commercial fishing of the vessels and other watercraft. “Commercial fishing” means taking or  
32 attempting to take any fish, shellfish, crustacea, or bait species with the intent of disposing of it for  
33 profit or by sale, barter, trade, or in commercial channels. The term does not include subsistence  
34 fishing, i.e., the taking for personal use and not for sale or barter; or sport fishing; but shall include

1 vessels and other watercraft with a Rhode Island party and charter boat license issued by the  
2 department of environmental management pursuant to § 20-2-27.1 that meet the following criteria:  
3 (i) The operator must have a current United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) license to carry  
4 passengers for hire; (ii) U.S.C.G. vessel documentation in the coast wide fishery trade; (iii)  
5 U.S.C.G. vessel documentation as to proof of Rhode Island home port status or a Rhode Island boat  
6 registration to prove Rhode Island home port status; and (iv) The vessel must be used as a  
7 commercial passenger carrying fishing vessel to carry passengers for fishing. The vessel must be  
8 able to demonstrate that at least fifty percent (50%) of its annual gross income derives from charters  
9 or provides documentation of a minimum of one hundred (100) charter trips annually; and (v) The  
10 vessel must have a valid Rhode Island party and charter boat license. The tax administrator shall  
11 implement the provisions of this subdivision by promulgating rules and regulations relating thereto.

12 (27) Clothing and footwear. From the sales of articles of clothing, including footwear,  
13 intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body for sales prior to October 1, 2012.  
14 Effective October 1, 2012, the exemption will apply to the sales of articles of clothing, including  
15 footwear, intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body up to two hundred and fifty  
16 dollars (\$250) of the sales price per item. For the purposes of this section, "clothing or footwear"  
17 does not include clothing accessories or equipment or special clothing or footwear primarily  
18 designed for athletic activity or protective use as these terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1(f). In  
19 recognition of the work being performed by the streamlined sales and use tax governing board,  
20 upon passage of any federal law that authorizes states to require remote sellers to collect and remit  
21 sales and use taxes, this unlimited exemption will apply as it did prior to October 1, 2012. The  
22 unlimited exemption on sales of clothing and footwear shall take effect on the date that the state  
23 requires remote sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes.

24 (28) Water for residential use. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
25 consumption in this state of water furnished for domestic use by occupants of residential premises.

26 (29) Bibles. [Unconstitutional; see *Ahlburn v. Clark*, 728 A.2d 449 (R.I. 1999); see Notes  
27 to Decisions.] From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the state of any  
28 canonized scriptures of any tax-exempt nonprofit religious organization including, but not limited  
29 to, the Old Testament and the New Testament versions.

30 (30) Boats.

31 (i) From the sale of a boat or vessel to a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not  
32 register the boat or vessel in this state or document the boat or vessel with the United States  
33 government at a home port within the state, whether the sale or delivery of the boat or vessel is  
34 made in this state or elsewhere; provided, that the nonresident transports the boat within thirty (30)

1 days after delivery by the seller outside the state for use thereafter solely outside the state.

2 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may  
3 require the seller of the boat or vessel to keep records of the sales to bona fide nonresidents as the  
4 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this  
5 subdivision, including the affidavit of the seller that the buyer represented himself or herself to be  
6 a bona fide nonresident of this state and of the buyer that he or she is a nonresident of this state.

7 (31) Youth activities equipment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this  
8 state of items for not more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) each by nonprofit Rhode Island  
9 eleemosynary organizations, for the purposes of youth activities that the organization is formed to  
10 sponsor and support; and by accredited elementary and secondary schools for the purposes of the  
11 schools or of organized activities of the enrolled students.

12 (32) Farm equipment. From the sale and from the storage or use of machinery and  
13 equipment used directly for commercial farming and agricultural production; including, but not  
14 limited to: tractors, ploughs, harrows, spreaders, seeders, milking machines, silage conveyors,  
15 balers, bulk milk storage tanks, trucks with farm plates, mowers, combines, irrigation equipment,  
16 greenhouses and greenhouse coverings, graders and packaging machines, tools and supplies and  
17 other farming equipment, including replacement parts appurtenant to or used in connection with  
18 commercial farming and tools and supplies used in the repair and maintenance of farming  
19 equipment. "Commercial farming" means the keeping or boarding of five (5) or more horses or the  
20 production within this state of agricultural products, including, but not limited to, field or orchard  
21 crops, livestock, dairy, and poultry, or their products, where the keeping, boarding, or production  
22 provides at least two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in annual gross sales to the operator,  
23 whether an individual, a group, a partnership, or a corporation for exemptions issued prior to July  
24 1, 2002. For exemptions issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, there shall be two (2) levels. Level I  
25 shall be based on proof of annual, gross sales from commercial farming of at least twenty-five  
26 hundred dollars (\$2,500) and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption provided in this  
27 subdivision except for motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or  
28 greater. Level II shall be based on proof of annual gross sales from commercial farming of at least  
29 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or greater and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption  
30 provided in this subdivision including motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand  
31 dollars (\$5,000) or greater. For the initial issuance of the exemptions, proof of the requisite amount  
32 of annual gross sales from commercial farming shall be required for the prior year; for any renewal  
33 of an exemption granted in accordance with this subdivision at either level I or level II, proof of  
34 gross annual sales from commercial farming at the requisite amount shall be required for each of

1 the prior two (2) years. Certificates of exemption issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, shall clearly  
2 indicate the level of the exemption and be valid for four (4) years after the date of issue. This  
3 exemption applies even if the same equipment is used for ancillary uses, or is temporarily used for  
4 a non-farming or a non-agricultural purpose, but shall not apply to motor vehicles acquired after  
5 July 1, 2002, unless the vehicle is a farm vehicle as defined pursuant to § 31-1-8 and is eligible for  
6 registration displaying farm plates as provided for in § 31-3-31.

7 (33) Compressed air. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the  
8 state of compressed air.

9 (34) Flags. From the sale and from the storage, consumption, or other use in this state of  
10 United States, Rhode Island or POW-MIA flags.

11 (35) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment to certain veterans. From the sale of a motor  
12 vehicle and adaptive equipment to and for the use of a veteran with a service-connected loss of or  
13 the loss of use of a leg, foot, hand, or arm, or any veteran who is a double amputee, whether service  
14 connected or not. The motor vehicle must be purchased by and especially equipped for use by the  
15 qualifying veteran. Certificate of exemption or refunds of taxes paid is granted under rules or  
16 regulations that the tax administrator may prescribe.

17 (36) Textbooks. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state  
18 of textbooks by an “educational institution,” as defined in subsection (18) of this section, and any  
19 educational institution within the purview of § 16-63-9(4), and used textbooks by any purveyor.

20 (37) Tangible personal property and supplies used in on-site hazardous waste recycling,  
21 reuse, or treatment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible  
22 personal property or supplies used or consumed in the operation of equipment, the exclusive  
23 function of which is the recycling, reuse, or recovery of materials (other than precious metals, as  
24 defined in subdivision (24)(ii) of this section) from the treatment of “hazardous wastes,” as defined  
25 in § 23-19.1-4, where the “hazardous wastes” are generated in Rhode Island solely by the same  
26 taxpayer and where the personal property is located at, in, or adjacent to a generating facility of the  
27 taxpayer in Rhode Island. The taxpayer shall procure an order from the director of the department  
28 of environmental management certifying that the equipment and/or supplies as used or consumed,  
29 qualify for the exemption under this subdivision. If any information relating to secret processes or  
30 methods of manufacture, production, or treatment is disclosed to the department of environmental  
31 management only to procure an order, and is a “trade secret” as defined in § 28-21-10(b), it is not  
32 open to public inspection or publicly disclosed unless disclosure is required under chapter 21 of  
33 title 28 or chapter 24.4 of title 23.

34 (38) Promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers. From the sale and from the

1 storage, use, or other consumption of promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers  
2 shipped to points outside of Rhode Island that either: (i) Accompany the product that is sold; (ii)  
3 Are shipped in bulk to out-of-state dealers for use in the sale of the product; or (iii) Are mailed to  
4 customers at no charge.

5 (39) Food items paid for by food stamps. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
6 consumption in this state of eligible food items payment for which is properly made to the retailer  
7 in the form of U.S. government food stamps issued in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977,  
8 7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.

9 (40) Transportation charges. From the sale or hiring of motor carriers as defined in § 39-  
10 12-2(12) to haul goods, when the contract or hiring cost is charged by a motor freight tariff filed  
11 with the Rhode Island public utilities commission on the number of miles driven or by the number  
12 of hours spent on the job.

13 (41) Trade-in value of boats. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption  
14 in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used boat as is allocated for a trade-  
15 in allowance on the boat of the buyer given in trade to the seller or of the proceeds applicable only  
16 to the boat as are received from an insurance claim as a result of a stolen or damaged boat, towards  
17 the purchase of a new or used boat by the buyer.

18 (42) Equipment used for research and development. From the sale and from the storage,  
19 use, or other consumption of equipment to the extent used for research and development purposes  
20 by a qualifying firm. For the purposes of this subsection, “qualifying firm” means a business for  
21 which the use of research and development equipment is an integral part of its operation and  
22 “equipment” means scientific equipment, computers, software, and related items.

23 (43) Coins. From the sale and from the other consumption in this state of coins having  
24 numismatic or investment value.

25 (44) Farm structure construction materials. Lumber, hardware, and other materials used in  
26 the new construction of farm structures, including production facilities such as, but not limited to:  
27 farrowing sheds, free stall and stanchion barns, milking parlors, silos, poultry barns, laying houses,  
28 fruit and vegetable storages, rooting cellars, propagation rooms, greenhouses, packing rooms,  
29 machinery storage, seasonal farm worker housing, certified farm markets, bunker and trench silos,  
30 feed storage sheds, and any other structures used in connection with commercial farming.

31 (45) Telecommunications carrier access service. Carrier access service or  
32 telecommunications service when purchased by a telecommunications company from another  
33 telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

34 (46) Boats or vessels brought into the state exclusively for winter storage, maintenance,

1 repair, or sale. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 44-18-10, 44-18-11 and 44-18-20, the tax  
2 imposed by § 44-18-20 is not applicable for the period commencing on the first day of October in  
3 any year up to and including the 30th day of April next succeeding with respect to the use of any  
4 boat or vessel within this state exclusively for purposes of: (i) Delivery of the vessel to a facility in  
5 this state for storage, including dry storage and storage in water by means of apparatus preventing  
6 ice damage to the hull, maintenance, or repair; (ii) The actual process of storage, maintenance, or  
7 repair of the boat or vessel; or (iii) Storage for the purpose of selling the boat or vessel.

8 (47) Jewelry display product. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
9 consumption in this state of tangible personal property used to display any jewelry product;  
10 provided that title to the jewelry display product is transferred by the jewelry manufacturer or seller  
11 and that the jewelry display product is shipped out of state for use solely outside the state and is not  
12 returned to the jewelry manufacturer or seller.

13 (48) Boats or vessels generally. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax  
14 imposed by §§ 44-18-20 and 44-18-18 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage,  
15 use, or other consumption in this state of any new or used boat. The exemption provided for in this  
16 subdivision does not apply after October 1, 1993, unless prior to October 1, 1993, the federal ten  
17 percent (10%) surcharge on luxury boats is repealed.

18 (49) Banks and regulated investment companies interstate toll-free calls. Notwithstanding  
19 the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by this chapter does not apply to the furnishing of  
20 interstate and international, toll-free terminating telecommunication service that is used directly  
21 and exclusively by or for the benefit of an eligible company as defined in this subdivision; provided  
22 that an eligible company employs on average during the calendar year no less than five hundred  
23 (500) "full-time equivalent employees" as that term is defined in § 42-64.5-2. For purposes of this  
24 section, an "eligible company" means a "regulated investment company" as that term is defined in  
25 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 851, or a corporation to the extent the service is  
26 provided, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of a regulated investment company, an employee  
27 benefit plan, a retirement plan or a pension plan, or a state-chartered bank.

28 (50) Mobile and manufactured homes generally. From the sale and from the storage, use,  
29 or other consumption in this state of mobile and/or manufactured homes as defined and subject to  
30 taxation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44 of title 31.

31 (51) Manufacturing business reconstruction materials.

32 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of lumber,  
33 hardware, and other building materials used in the reconstruction of a manufacturing business  
34 facility that suffers a disaster, as defined in this subdivision, in this state. "Disaster" means any

1 occurrence, natural or otherwise, that results in the destruction of sixty percent (60%) or more of  
2 an operating manufacturing business facility within this state. "Disaster" does not include any  
3 damage resulting from the willful act of the owner of the manufacturing business facility.

4 (ii) Manufacturing business facility includes, but is not limited to, the structures housing  
5 the production and administrative facilities.

6 (iii) In the event a manufacturer has more than one manufacturing site in this state, the sixty  
7 percent (60%) provision applies to the damages suffered at that one site.

8 (iv) To the extent that the costs of the reconstruction materials are reimbursed by insurance,  
9 this exemption does not apply.

10 (52) Tangible personal property and supplies used in the processing or preparation of floral  
11 products and floral arrangements. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of  
12 tangible personal property or supplies purchased by florists, garden centers, or other like producers  
13 or vendors of flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements that are  
14 ultimately sold with flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements  
15 or are otherwise used in the decoration, fabrication, creation, processing, or preparation of flowers,  
16 plants, floral products, or natural and artificial floral arrangements, including descriptive labels,  
17 stickers, and cards affixed to the flower, plant, floral product, or arrangement, artificial flowers,  
18 spray materials, floral paint and tint, plant shine, flower food, insecticide, and fertilizers.

19 (53) Horse food products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption  
20 in this state of horse food products purchased by a person engaged in the business of the boarding  
21 of horses.

22 (54) Non-motorized recreational vehicles sold to nonresidents.

23 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 2003, of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to  
24 a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not register the non-motorized recreational vehicle  
25 in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the non-motorized recreational vehicle is made in this  
26 state or at the place of residence of the nonresident; provided that a non-motorized recreational  
27 vehicle sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to  
28 its nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20; provided, further, that in  
29 that event the bona fide nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate  
30 that would be imposed in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been  
31 imposed under § 44-18-20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed, non-motorized  
32 recreational vehicle dealer shall add and collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit  
33 the tax to the tax administrator under the provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. Provided,  
34 that when a Rhode Island licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer is required to add and

1 collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to a bona fide  
2 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the  
3 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

4 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may  
5 require any licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide  
6 nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption  
7 provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed, non-motorized recreational  
8 vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the non-motorized recreational vehicle was the holder of, and  
9 had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state non-motorized recreational vehicle registration or  
10 a valid out-of-state driver's license.

11 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a non-motorized recreational vehicle in this state within  
12 ninety (90) days of the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the non-motorized  
13 recreational vehicle for use, storage, or other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable  
14 for, the use tax imposed under the provisions of § 44-18-20.

15 (iv) "Non-motorized recreational vehicle" means any portable dwelling designed and  
16 constructed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, camping, recreational, and vacation use  
17 that is eligible to be registered for highway use, including, but not limited to, "pick-up coaches" or  
18 "pick-up campers," "travel trailers," and "tent trailers" as those terms are defined in chapter 1 of  
19 title 31.

20 (55) Sprinkler and fire alarm systems in existing buildings. From the sale in this state of  
21 sprinkler and fire alarm systems; emergency lighting and alarm systems; and the materials  
22 necessary and attendant to the installation of those systems that are required in buildings and  
23 occupancies existing therein in July 2003 in order to comply with any additional requirements for  
24 such buildings arising directly from the enactment of the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act of 2003  
25 and that are not required by any other provision of law or ordinance or regulation adopted pursuant  
26 to that act. The exemption provided in this subdivision shall expire on December 31, 2008.

27 (56) Aircraft. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by §§ 44-  
28 18-18 and 44-18-20 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage, use, or other  
29 consumption in this state of any new or used aircraft or aircraft parts.

30 (57) Renewable energy products. Notwithstanding any other provisions of Rhode Island  
31 general laws, the following products shall also be exempt from sales tax: solar photovoltaic  
32 modules or panels, or any module or panel that generates electricity from light; solar thermal  
33 collectors, including, but not limited to, those manufactured with flat glass plates, extruded plastic,  
34 sheet metal, and/or evacuated tubes; geothermal heat pumps, including both water-to-water and



1 water-to-air type pumps; wind turbines; towers used to mount wind turbines if specified by or sold  
2 by a wind turbine manufacturer; DC to AC inverters that interconnect with utility power lines; and  
3 manufactured mounting racks and ballast pans for solar collector, module, or panel installation. Not  
4 to include materials that could be fabricated into such racks; monitoring and control equipment, if  
5 specified or supplied by a manufacturer of solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, or wind  
6 energy systems or if required by law or regulation for such systems but not to include pumps, fans  
7 or plumbing or electrical fixtures unless shipped from the manufacturer affixed to, or an integral  
8 part of, another item specified on this list; and solar storage tanks that are part of a solar domestic  
9 hot water system or a solar space heating system. If the tank comes with an external heat exchanger  
10 it shall also be tax exempt, but a standard hot water tank is not exempt from state sales tax.

11 (58) Returned property. The amount charged for property returned by customers upon  
12 rescission of the contract of sale when the entire amount exclusive of handling charges paid for the  
13 property is refunded in either cash or credit, and where the property is returned within one hundred  
14 twenty (120) days from the date of delivery.

15 (59) Dietary supplements. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption  
16 of dietary supplements as defined in § 44-18-7.1(v), sold on prescriptions.

17 (60) Blood. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption of human blood.

18 (61) Agricultural products for human consumption. From the sale and from the storage,  
19 use, or other consumption of livestock and poultry of the kinds of products that ordinarily constitute  
20 food for human consumption and of livestock of the kind the products of which ordinarily constitute  
21 fibers for human use.

22 (62) Diesel emission control technology. From the sale and use of diesel retrofit  
23 technology that is required by § 31-47.3-4.

24 (63) Feed for certain animals used in commercial farming. From the sale of feed for  
25 animals as described in subsection (61) of this section.

26 (64) Alcoholic beverages. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this  
27 state by a Class A licensee of alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, excluding beer and  
28 malt beverages; provided, further, notwithstanding § 6-13-1 or any other general or public law to  
29 the contrary, alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, shall not be subject to minimum  
30 markup.

31 (65) Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients. From the sale, storage, use,  
32 or other consumption in this state of seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients as  
33 defined in § 44-18-7.1(i). "Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients" shall not  
34 include marijuana seeds or plants.

1 (66) Feminine hygiene products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
2 consumption of tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar products  
3 the principal use of which is feminine hygiene in connection with the menstrual cycle.

4 (67) “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” means items of tangible personal  
5 property used in conjunction with a breast pump to collect milk expressed from a human breast and  
6 to store collected milk until it is ready for consumption. “Breast pump collection and storage  
7 supplies” include, but are not limited to, breast shields and breast shield connectors; breast pump  
8 tubes and tubing adaptors; breast pump valves and membranes; backflow protectors and backflow  
9 protector adaptors; bottles and bottle caps specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast milk  
10 storage bags; and related items sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump  
11 manufacturer. “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” does not include: bottles and bottle  
12 caps not specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast pump travel bags and other similar  
13 carrying accessories, including ice packs, labels, and other similar products, unless sold as part of  
14 a breast pump kit pre-packed by the breast pump manufacturer; breast pump cleaning supplies,  
15 unless sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump manufacturer; nursing  
16 bras, bra pads, breast shells, and other similar products; and creams, ointments, and other similar  
17 products that relieve breastfeeding-related symptoms or conditions of the breasts or nipples.

18 (68) Trade-in value of motorcycles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
19 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used motorcycle as is  
20 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the motorcycle of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of  
21 the proceeds applicable only to the motorcycle as are received from the manufacturer of  
22 motorcycles for the repurchase of the motorcycle whether the repurchase was voluntary or not  
23 towards the purchase of a new or used motorcycle by the buyer. For the purpose of this subsection,  
24 the word “motorcycle” means a motorcycle not used for hire and does not refer to any other type  
25 of motor vehicle.

26 [\(69\) Commercial fishing motor vehicles. From the sale and from the storage or use of motor](#)  
27 [vehicles used directly for commercial fishing purposes, including motor vehicles with commercial](#)  
28 [fishing plates issued pursuant to § 31-3-31.4.](#)

29 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect six (6) months after passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES --  
REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING VEHICLES

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1           This act would require the division of motor vehicles to develop a form for registration of  
2   and a license plate for commercial fishing motor vehicles, essential to a commercial fishing  
3   business and used by the owner, family member(s), employee(s), or designees of the owner in the  
4   conduct of the owner's commercial fishing business. The act would also exempt the vehicles from  
5   the sales and use tax.

6           This act would take effect six (6) months after passage.

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