

2023 -- S 0946

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION FEES

Introduced By: Senator Walter S. Felag

Date Introduced: April 27, 2023

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-6-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-6 entitled "Registration
2 Fees" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-6-8. Disabled veterans.**

4 (a) Any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the service of the armed forces
5 or the merchant marine of the United States in any of the wars or campaigns in which the United
6 States has been engaged and who, while engaged in these wars or campaigns or as a result of
7 engagement in these wars or campaigns, by reason of amputation, has lost one or both of his or her
8 arms, hands, feet, or legs, or who, by reason of other permanent injury, has lost the use of one or
9 both of his or her arms, hands, feet, or legs, or to whom has been granted a motor vehicle under
10 chapter 870-2D, United States Public Laws 663, enacted 1946, 79th Congress, or has suitable
11 documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to establish that the veteran:

12 (1) Has a combined service connected disability rating of one hundred percent (100%); or

13 (2) Is considered "individually unemployable" due to his or her service-connected
14 disability, shall be exempt from the payment of any fee for the annual registration of and a license
15 to operate that motor vehicle.

16 (b) The administrator for the division of motor vehicles shall issue to an eligible veteran
17 for use on ~~an automobile~~ any personal, or ~~on a commercial vehicle having a gross weight of six~~
18 ~~thousand three hundred pounds (6,300 lbs.) or less;~~ vehicle they own or which are registered to any
19 business of which they wholly or in part own, registration plates designated "Disabled Veteran."

1 The "Disabled Veteran" plates may be transferred to the veteran's spouse or caretaker during the
2 veteran's lifetime upon certification that the veteran is no longer able to operate their vehicle. Upon
3 the death of the holder of "Disabled Veteran" plates, the plates may be transferred to his or her
4 surviving spouse for his or her lifetime or until he or she remarries. ~~Only one set of~~ "Disabled
5 Veteran" plates shall be issued to an eligible veteran ~~and~~ only after certification of eligibility from
6 the Veterans' Administration or other satisfactory documentation of eligibility is presented.

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

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EXPLANATION
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1 This act would permit disabled veterans to be issued more than one set of disabled veteran
2 license plates, and would permit the plates to be transferred to their spouse or caretaker during the
3 veteran's life if they can no longer drive and would allow disabled veteran plates to be issued for a
4 commercial vehicle of any size.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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