

2024 -- H 7510

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TAXICABS AND LIMITED
PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Baginski, Lima, Diaz,
DeSimone, Fellela, Biah, Morales, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 07, 2024

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-14-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14 entitled "Taxicabs
2 and Limited Public Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-14-18. Proof of financial responsibility.**

4 The owner of every taxicab or limited public motor vehicle shall, before operating or
5 continuing to operate a taxicab or limited public motor vehicle on the public highways of this state,
6 furnish to the division of public utilities and carriers, a certificate of insurance issued by an
7 insurance company authorized to transact business in this state, showing that the owner has a policy
8 insuring him or her against liability for injury to persons and damage to property that may be caused
9 by the operation of the taxicab or limited public motor vehicle, such policy to provide for indemnity
10 in the sum of not less than ~~three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)~~ two hundred thousand dollars
11 (\$200,000) combined, single limit, or ~~two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)~~ one hundred
12 thousand dollars (\$100,000) per person, ~~five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~ three hundred
13 thousand dollars (\$300,000) per accident bodily injury and one hundred thousand dollars
14 (\$100,000) property damage split limit.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-14 of the General Laws entitled "Taxicabs and Limited Public
16 Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

17 **39-14-27. Rules governing transportation of passengers via taxicabs.**

18 The following provisions shall govern the operation of taxicabs used to transport

1 passengers, notwithstanding any regulations to the contrary:

2 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no taxicab shall operate beyond an
3 odometer reading of three hundred thousand (300,000) miles or ten (10) years of service, whichever
4 is the first to occur.

5 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no motor vehicle shall initially be
6 put in service as a taxicab if the vehicle is more than ten (10) years old.

7 (3) An exception may be granted to subsections (1) and (2) of this section in cases involving
8 vehicles in extraordinary condition. The certificate holder may petition the administrator of the
9 division of public utilities (the "administrator") for an exemption from the prohibitions provided in
10 subsections (1) and (2) of this section. In order to be granted an exemption, the petitioner shall
11 demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the administrator, that the vehicle to be used as a taxicab would
12 be as acceptable to the public as the newer taxicabs mandated under the rules and regulations of
13 the division of public utilities; that the vehicle has few, if any, of the interior and exterior wear
14 signs concomitant with vehicles of that older vintage; and that the vehicle appears and functions in
15 relatively "original" condition.

16 SECTION 3. 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 amend requirements regarding how taxicabs can be placed into service.
2 This act would provide that taxicabs may stay and be used in service for up to three hundred
3 thousand (300,000) miles or ten (10) years, whichever comes first. These limits could be extended
4 if the administrator of the division of public utilities determined the vehicle was still in sufficiently
5 good condition. This act would also reduce the minimum level of insurance required for each
6 taxicab to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) combined single limit or one hundred thousand
7 dollars (\$100,000) per person, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per accident.
8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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