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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, and Ucci

Date Introduced: March 27, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 39-14.1-1 and 39-14.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14.1
2 entitled "Public Motor Vehicles" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-14.1-1. Definitions.** -- Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
4 another meaning is expressed or is clearly apparent from the language or context:

5 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of operating authority issued to a public motor
6 vehicle;

7 (2) "Charter carrier" means a provider of transportation services to groups such as:
8 lodges, bands, athletic teams, schools or other travel groups, assembled by someone other than
9 the carrier who collectively contracts for the exclusive use of certain equipment for the duration
10 of a particular trip or tour. Charter carrier services shall also include transportation services
11 provided by employment agencies or employers to individuals in the context of providing
12 transportation to and from their place of employment;

13 (3) "Common carrier" as used in this chapter, means any person engaging in the business
14 of providing transportation services for compensation to passengers through the use of a public
15 motor vehicle as defined in this chapter;

16 (4) "Division" means the division of public utilities and carriers;

17 (5) "Driver" means any person operating a motor vehicle used for the transportation of
18 passengers which he or she owns or is operating with the expressed or implied consent of the
19 owner;

1 (6) "Person" means and includes any individual, partnership, corporation, or other
2 association of individuals;

3 (7) "Public motor vehicle" means and includes every motor vehicle for hire, other than a
4 jitney, as defined in section 39-13-1, or a taxicab or limited public motor vehicle, as defined in
5 section 39-14-1, used for transporting members of the general public for compensation in
6 unmarked vehicles at a predetermined or prearranged charge, [and for which the rate is disclosed](#)
7 [to the passenger, in advance, through a software application](#) to such points as may be directed by
8 the passenger. All vehicles operated under this chapter shall conform to specifications established
9 by the division. Transportation services provided by charter carriers, as defined in this chapter, or
10 by funeral homes in association with funeral services, and by ambulance companies shall be
11 exempt from this chapter;

12 (8) "Unmarked vehicles" means motor vehicles that do not display the transportation
13 company's name, address or telephone number, or any advertisements or commercial information
14 beyond that included by the vehicle's manufacturer on the vehicle's exterior surfaces.

15 (9) "Wheelchair accessible public motor vehicle" means a public motor vehicle designed
16 and equipped to allow the transportation of a person(s) who uses a wheelchair without requiring
17 that person(s) to be removed from the wheelchair, but such public motor vehicle is not restricted
18 to transporting only persons using wheelchairs.

19 **39-14.1-6. Operations of public motor vehicles.** -- No public motor vehicle shall be
20 operated from any taxicab stand on any public highway; nor shall the operator of it transport any
21 passenger for hire unless the transportation is requested by the passenger at an office of the owner
22 of the vehicle, either personally or by telephone and/or other electronic means. When solicited by
23 a prospective customer the certificate holder or its representative shall quote what the actual
24 charge for the requested transportation service will be prior to picking up the passenger(s).

25 The division shall establish and set a minimum allowable charge for public motor
26 vehicle services. The minimum allowable charge provisions of this section shall not apply to
27 public motor vehicle service [that is prearranged, and for which the rate is disclosed to the](#)
28 [passenger in advance through a software application; or](#) coordinated by or paid for by a state
29 department, authority or agency on behalf of clients of said state department, authority or agency;
30 provided, however, that the state department, authority or agency requests the service no later
31 than the day before the service is to be rendered.

32 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 eliminate the requirement for a minimum allowable charge for public
2 motor vehicles when the service is prearranged and for which the rate is disclosed to the
3 passenger in advance through a software application.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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