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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL CODE
PROVISIONS - TYPES OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Naughton, McNamara, Blazejewski, and
Palangio

Date Introduced: April 03, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-1 entitled "Definitions
2 and General Code Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-1-3. Types of vehicles.** -- (a) (1) "Antique motor car" means any motor vehicle ~~which~~
4 that is more than twenty-five (25) years old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection
5 requirements, the vehicle may be maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades,
6 and other functions of public interest and may not be used primarily for the transportation of
7 passengers or goods over any public highway;

8 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate
9 may be issued to it on payment of the standard fee. The vehicle may be operated on the highways
10 of this and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the designation
11 "antique" and display an "antique plate".

12 (3) For any vehicle that is more than twenty-five (25) years old, the division of motor
13 vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated by
14 the administrator, a "year of manufacture plate" for the vehicle that is an exact replica plate
15 designating the exact year of manufacture of the vehicle.

16 (b) (1) "Antique motorcycle" means any motorcycle ~~which~~ that is more than twenty-five
17 (25) years old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection requirements, the vehicle shall be
18 maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public

1 interest and may not be used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any
2 public highway; and

3 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate
4 may be issued to it, on payment of the standard fee, and the vehicle may be operated on the
5 highways of this and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the
6 designation "antique" and display an "antique plate".

7 (c) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means vehicles of the fire department (fire patrol);
8 police vehicles; vehicles used by Rhode Island state marshals in the department of corrections;
9 vehicles used by the state bomb squad within the division of state fire marshal; vehicles of
10 municipal departments or public service corporations designated or authorized by the
11 administrator as ambulances and emergency vehicles; and privately owned motor vehicles of
12 volunteer firefighters or privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer ambulance drivers or
13 attendants, as authorized by the department chief or commander and permitted by the Rhode
14 Island ~~a~~Association of ~~f~~Fire ~~e~~Chiefs and Rhode Island ~~a~~Association of ~~p~~Police ~~e~~Chiefs ~~j~~Joint
15 ~~e~~Committee for ~~v~~Volunteer ~~w~~Warning ~~l~~Light ~~p~~Permits.

16 (d) "Automobile" means, for registration purposes, every motor vehicle carrying
17 passengers other than for hire.

18 (e) "Bicycle" means every vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and
19 similar devices, propelled exclusively by human power, and upon which a person may ride.

20 (f) "Camping recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type camping unit, certified by the
21 manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.2 Standards designed primarily as temporary living
22 quarters for recreation that has either its own ~~motive~~ motor power or is mounted on, or towed by,
23 another vehicle. The basic units are tent trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, motorized campers, travel
24 trailers, and pick-up campers.

25 (g) "Electric motorized bicycles" means a motorized bicycle ~~which~~ that may be propelled
26 by human power or electric motor power, or by both, with an electric motor rated not more than
27 two (2) (S.A.E.) horsepower, ~~which~~ that is capable of a maximum speed of not more than twenty-
28 five (25) miles per hour.

29 (h) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" ("EPAMD") is a self-balancing non-
30 tandem, two- ~~(2)-non-tandem~~ wheeled (2) device, designed to transport only one person, with an
31 electric propulsion system ~~which~~ that limits the maximum speed of the device to fifteen (15)
32 miles per hour.

33 (i) Fifth-wheel trailer: A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding four hundred (400)
34 square feet in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that contains a towing

1 mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle and ~~which~~ that is
2 eligible to be registered for highway use.

3 (j) "Hearse" means every motor vehicle used for transporting human corpses. A hearse
4 shall be considered an automobile for registration purposes.

5 (k) "Jitney or bus" means: (1) ~~a~~ A "public bus" ~~which~~ that includes every motor vehicle,
6 trailer, semi-trailer, tractor trailer, or tractor trailer combination, used for the transportation of
7 passengers for hire, and operated wholly or in part upon any street or highway as a means of
8 transportation similar to that afforded by a street railway company, by indiscriminately receiving
9 or discharging passengers, or running on a regular route or over any portion of one, or between
10 fixed termini; or (2) ~~a~~ A "private bus" ~~which~~ that includes every motor vehicle other than a public
11 bus or passenger van designed for carrying more than ten (10) passengers and used for the
12 transportation of persons, and every motor vehicle other than a taxicab designed and used for the
13 transportation of persons for compensation.

14 (l) "Motorcycle" means only those motor vehicles having not more than three (3) wheels
15 in contact with the ground and a saddle on which the driver sits astride, except bicycles with
16 helper motors as defined in subsection (n) of this section.

17 (m) "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with
18 a motor of no greater than five (5) horsepower, except bicycles with helper motors as defined in
19 subsection (n) of this section.

20 (n) "Motorized bicycles" means two ~~(2)~~ wheel (2) vehicles ~~which~~ that may be propelled
21 by human power or helper power, or by both, with a motor rated not more than four and nine-
22 tenths (4.9) horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters, ~~which~~ that are capable
23 of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

24 (o) Motorized camper: A camping recreational vehicle, built on, or permanently attached
25 to, a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis cab or van that is an integral part of the completed
26 vehicle.

27 (p) "Motorized tricycles" means tricycles ~~which~~ that may be propelled by human power
28 or helper motor, or by both, with a motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower ~~which~~ that is
29 capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

30 (q) "Motorized wheelchair" means any self-propelled vehicle, designed for and used by a
31 person with a disability, that is incapable of speed in excess of eight (8) miles per hour.

32 (r) "Motor scooter" means a motor-driven cycle with a motor rated not more than four
33 and nine-tenths (4.9) horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters, ~~which~~ that is
34 capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

1 (s) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle ~~which~~ that is self-propelled or propelled by
2 electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails, except vehicles
3 moved exclusively by human power, an EPAMD and electric motorized bicycles as defined in
4 subsection (g) of this section, and motorized wheelchairs.

5 (t) "Motor vehicle for hire" means every motor vehicle other than jitneys, public buses,
6 hearses, and motor vehicles used chiefly in connection with the conduct of funerals, to transport
7 persons for compensation in any form, or motor vehicles rented for transporting persons either
8 with or without furnishing an operator.

9 (u) Park trailer: A camping recreational vehicle that is eligible to be registered for
10 highway use and meets the following criteria: (1) ~~b~~Built on a single chassis mounted on wheels;
11 and (2) ~~e~~Certified by the manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.5.

12 (v) "Passenger van" means every motor vehicle capable of carrying ten (10) to fourteen
13 (14) passengers plus an operator and used for personal use or on a not-for-hire basis. Passenger
14 vans may be used for vanpools, transporting passengers to and from work locations, provided that
15 the operator receives no remuneration other than free use of the vehicle.

16 (w) "Pedal carriages" (also known as "quadricycles") means a nonmotorized bicycle with
17 four (4) or more wheels operated by one or more persons for the purpose of, or capable of,
18 transporting additional passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of or otherwise attached
19 to the pedal carriage. The term shall not include a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed
20 to it, nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for the
21 transportation of a handicapped person, nor shall it include a tricycle built for a child or an adult
22 with a seat for only one operator and no passenger.

23 (x) "Pick-up camper": A camping recreational vehicle consisting of a roof, floor, and
24 sides designed to be loaded onto and unloaded from the back of a pick-up truck.

25 (y) "Rickshaws" (also known as "pedi cabs") means a nonmotorized bicycle with three
26 (3) wheels operated by one person for the purpose of, or capable of, transporting additional
27 passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of or otherwise attached to the rickshaw. This
28 definition shall not include a bicycle built for two (2) where the operators are seated one behind
29 the other, nor shall it include the operation of a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed
30 thereto, nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for
31 the transportation of a handicapped person.

32 (z) "School bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency,
33 when operated for the transportation of children to or from school; or privately owned, when
34 operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

1 (aa) "Suburban vehicle" means every motor vehicle with a convertible or
2 interchangeable body or with removable seats, usable for both passenger and delivery purposes,
3 and including motor vehicles commonly known as station or depot wagons or any vehicle into
4 which access can be gained through the rear by means of a hatch or trunk and where the rear seats
5 can be folded down to permit the carrying of articles as well as passengers.

6 (bb) "Tent trailer": A towable recreational vehicle that is mounted on wheels and
7 constructed with collapsible partial side walls that fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold
8 for use and ~~which~~ that is eligible to be registered for highway use.

9 (cc) "Trackless trolley coach" means every motor vehicle ~~which~~ that is propelled by
10 electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated on rails.

11 (dd) Travel trailer: A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding three hundred twenty
12 (320) square feet in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle containing a towing
13 mechanism that is mounted behind the tow vehicle's bumper and ~~which~~ that is eligible to be
14 registered for highway use.

15 (ee) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or
16 may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary
17 rails or tracks.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall effect take on July 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL CODE
PROVISIONS - TYPES OF VEHICLES

1 This act would authorize the division of motor vehicles to issue replica "year of
2 manufacture" plates for antique vehicles.

3 This act would take effect on July 1, 2015.

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