

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION FEES

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Raptakis, Ciccone, Tikoian, and Britto

Date Introduced: January 23, 2025

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 the
8 veteran's arms, hands, feet, or legs, or who, by reason of other permanent injury, has lost the use
9 of one or both of the veteran's arms, hands, feet, or legs, or to whom has been granted a motor
10 vehicle under chapter 870-2D, United States Public Laws 663, enacted 1946, 79th Congress, or has
11 suitable 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 the veteran's 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, or on a commercial vehicle having a gross weight of twelve thousand
18 pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less, registration plates designated "Disabled Veteran." Provided that:

19 (1) Upon certification that the veteran is no longer able to operate a vehicle, the "Disabled

1 Veteran" plates may be transferred, during their lifetime, to the veteran's spouse; and

2 (2) Upon the death of the ~~holder~~ initial registrant of the "Disabled Veteran" plates, the
3 plates may be transferred to the veteran's surviving spouse for the spouse's lifetime or until the
4 spouse remarries. ~~Only one set of~~

5 (3) "Disabled Veteran" plates shall be issued to an eligible veteran ~~and~~ or their spouse as
6 provided for in subsection (b)(1) of this section only after certification of eligibility from the
7 Veterans' Administration or other satisfactory documentation of eligibility is presented.

8 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 permit upon certification that the veteran is no longer able to operate a
2 vehicle, the transfer of the plate to the veteran's spouse. Additionally, a disabled veteran license
3 plate may be issued to an eligible veteran or their spouse.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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