

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES

Introduced By: Representative Brandon T. Voas

Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 3-8-6 and 3-8-6.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 3-8 entitled  
2 "Regulation of Sales" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **3-8-6. Unlawful drinking and misrepresentation by underage persons —**  
4 **Identification cards for persons twenty-one and older.**

5 (a) It is unlawful for:

6 (1) A person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday to enter any  
7 premises licensed for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of purchasing or having  
8 served or delivered to him or her alcoholic beverages; or

9 (2) A person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday to consume any  
10 alcoholic beverage on premises licensed for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages or to purchase,  
11 attempt to purchase, or have another purchase for him or her any alcoholic beverage; or

12 (3) A person to misrepresent or misstate his or her age, or the age of any other persons, or  
13 to misrepresent his or her age through the presentation of any of the following documents:

14 (i) An armed service identification card, valid passport, the identification card license, or  
15 any other documentation used for identification purposes that may belong to any other person who  
16 is twenty-one (21) years or older;

17 (ii) A motor vehicle operator's license or a driver privilege card issued pursuant to § 31-  
18 10.4-2 that bears the date of birth of the licensee and that is issued by this state or any other state;

19 (iii) A Rhode Island identification card, as defined in subsection (b), for the purpose of

1 inducing any licensee, or any employee of any licensee, to sell, serve, or deliver any alcoholic  
2 beverage to a minor.

3 (b)(1) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall issue to any person who  
4 has reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday a Rhode Island identification card upon payment  
5 of a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25), and, upon presentation of a certified birth or baptismal  
6 certificate, or U.S. or foreign passport, or U.S. naturalization certificate or a valid immigrant or  
7 refugee document issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, including, but  
8 not limited to, any one of the following: Form I-551, Form I-94, Form I-688A, Form I-688, and a  
9 form evidencing that the applicant is a current or past recipient of a grant of deferred action under  
10 the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, together with a document bearing the  
11 applicant's signature.

12 (2) A person who has reached his or her fifty-ninth (59th) birthday is not required to pay  
13 the fee.

14 (3) Each registration card shall be subject to renewal every five (5) years upon payment of  
15 a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25).

16 (4) No person who holds an operator's license ~~or~~ a driver privilege card, or an  
17 identification card issued by this state or any other state or territory of the United States shall be  
18 issued a Rhode Island identification card.

19 (5) The identification card shall be signed by the administrator of the division of motor  
20 vehicles and by the applicant and his or her picture shall appear on the card along with the required  
21 information and the card shall be encased in laminated plastic. The card shall be two inches (2") in  
22 height and four inches (4") in length and shall be printed in the following form:

23 RHODE ISLAND IDENTIFICATION CARD

24 Date Issued ..... No.....

25 First Name Middle Name Last Name  
26 .....

27 Address  
28 .....

29 BIRTH RECORD

30 Month.....Day.....Year .....

31 Secure Photo by Pasting here Color of hair Color of eyes Sex Ht Wt.  
32 ..... .....

33 Issued by  
34 Administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles

1 .....  
2 .....  
3 .....

4 Administrator

5 (6) The identification cards shall be produced at the adult correctional institutions if they  
6 have facilities to do so; if the adult correctional institutions have no facilities to do so, then all cards  
7 shall be manufactured by the lowest responsible bidder following advertisement for the solicitation  
8 of bids.

9 (7) The identification cards shall be clearly distinguishable from those issued pursuant to  
10 § 3-8-6.1 and operators' and chauffeurs' licenses issued pursuant to title 31.

11 (8) Any person who has been designated as permanently and totally disabled by the social  
12 security administration or who upon certification by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician  
13 that a holder of a valid and current motor vehicle operator's license is no longer able to operate a  
14 motor vehicle, the administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall issue to such person, upon  
15 request, a Rhode Island identification card for the unexpired term of the person's motor vehicle  
16 operator's license at no additional cost. Thereafter, a renewal of such card shall be subject to the  
17 standard renewal charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25) until the person shall reach his or her fifty-  
18 ninth (59th) birthday.

19 (9) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall, upon presentation of a United  
20 States Department of Defense (DD) FORM 214 or other acceptable documentation of military  
21 service and verification of an honorable discharge, issue an identification card to the presenter that  
22 is clearly marked "veteran," at no additional cost.

23 (c)(1) Every retail Class A, B, C, and D licensee shall cause to be kept a book or  
24 photographic reproduction equipment that provides the same information as required by the book.  
25 That licensee or the licensee's employee shall require any person who has shown a document as  
26 set forth in this section substantiating his or her age to sign that book or to permit the taking of his  
27 or her photograph and indicate what document was presented. Use of the photographic reproduction  
28 equipment is voluntary for every Class A, B, C, and D licensee.

29 (2) The sign-in-as-minor book and photographic reproduction equipment shall be  
30 prescribed, published, and approved at the direction and control of the division. The book shall  
31 contain at least four hundred (400) pages; shall be uniform throughout the state; and shall be  
32 distributed at a cost not to exceed seven dollars (\$7.00).

33 (3) If a person whose age is in question signs the sign-in-as-minor book or has a photograph  
34 taken before he or she is sold any alcoholic beverage and it is later determined that the person had

1 not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday at the time of sale, it is considered prima facie  
2 evidence that the licensee and/or the licensee's agent or servant acted in good faith in selling any  
3 alcoholic beverage to the person producing the document as set forth in this section misrepresenting  
4 his or her age.

5 (4) Proof of good-faith reliance on any misrepresentation is a defense to the prosecution of  
6 the licensee and/or the licensee's agent or servant for an alleged violation of this section.

7 (d)(1) Any person who violates this section shall be punished for the first offense by a  
8 mandatory fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars  
9 (\$500) and shall be further punished by thirty (30) hours of community service and shall be further  
10 punished by a suspension of his or her motor vehicle operator's license or driving privileges for a  
11 period of thirty (30) days; for the second offense by a mandatory fine of not less than five hundred  
12 dollars (\$500) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) and shall be further punished by  
13 forty (40) hours of community service and will be further punished by a suspension of his or her  
14 motor vehicle operator's license or driving privileges for a period of three (3) months; and for the  
15 third and subsequent offenses by a mandatory fine for each offense of not less than seven hundred  
16 fifty dollars (\$750) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and shall be further punished by  
17 fifty (50) hours of community service and will be further punished by a suspension of his or her  
18 motor vehicle operator's license or driving privileges for a period of one year.

19 (2) Any suspension of an operator's license or driving privilege pursuant to this section  
20 shall not operate to affect the insurance rating of the offender and any operator's license or driving  
21 privilege suspended pursuant to this section shall be reinstated without further expense upon  
22 application.

23 (e) Within thirty (30) days after this incident the police chief of the city or town where the  
24 incident took place is directed to inform, in writing, the department of business regulation whether  
25 or not charges in accordance with this section have been preferred against a person who has not  
26 reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday and has violated this section. If no charge is brought  
27 against any person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday and has violated the  
28 provisions of this section, then the police chief of the city or town where the incident took place  
29 will state the reason for his or her failure to charge the person who has not reached his or her twenty-  
30 first (21st) birthday.

31 (f) The Rhode Island identification card may be withdrawn at any time for just cause, at  
32 the discretion of the administrator of the division of motor vehicles. The administrator of the  
33 division of motor vehicles shall keep a record of the cards issued and each card shall contain an  
34 identification number specifically assigned to the person to whom the card was issued.

1 (g) Issuance of a Rhode Island identification card under this section to a current or past  
2 recipient of a grant of deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)  
3 program shall not confer the right to vote in the state of Rhode Island.

4 **3-8-6.1. Identification cards for persons under the age of 21.**

5 (a)(1) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall issue to any person upon  
6 request, who is under twenty-one (21) years of age, an identification card upon payment of a fee of  
7 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), and, upon presentation of a certified birth or baptismal certificate, or  
8 U.S. or foreign passport, or U.S. naturalization certificate, or a valid immigrant or refugee  
9 document issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services including, but not  
10 limited to, any one of the following: Form I-551, Form I-94, Form I-688A, Form I-688, and a form  
11 evidencing that the applicant is a current or past recipient of a grant of deferred action under the  
12 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, together with a document bearing the applicant's  
13 signature. No person who holds an operator's license ~~or~~, a driver privilege card, or an identification  
14 card issued by this state or any other state or territory of the United States, shall be issued an  
15 identification card.

16 (2) The identification card shall be subject to renewal every five (5) years upon the payment  
17 of a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

18 (3) The identification card shall be signed by the administrator of the division of motor  
19 vehicles and also by the applicant, and his or her picture shall appear on the card along with the  
20 required information and the card shall be encased in laminated plastic. The card shall be two inches  
21 (2") in height and four inches (4") in length and shall be printed in the following form:

22 IDENTIFICATION CARD

23 Date Issued ..... No.....  
24 First Name Middle Name Last Name  
25 .....  
26 Address  
27 .....

28 BIRTH RECORD

29 Month.....Day.....Year .....

30 Secure Photo by Pasting here	Color of hair	Color of eyes	Sex	Ht	Wt.
31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
32	Issued by				
33	Administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles				
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Administrator

(4) The identification cards shall be produced at the adult correctional institution if they have facilities to do so; if the adult correctional institutions have no facilities to do so, then all cards shall be manufactured by the lowest responsible bidder following advertisement for the solicitation of bids.

(5) The identification cards shall be clearly distinguishable from those issued pursuant to § 3-8-6 and operators' and chauffeurs' licenses issued pursuant to title 31.

(b) The identification card may be withdrawn at any time for just cause, at the discretion of the administrator of the division of motor vehicles. The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall keep a record of the cards issued and each card shall contain an identification number specifically assigned to the person to whom the card was issued.

(c) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall, upon presentation of a United States Department of Defense (DD) FORM 214 or other acceptable documentation of military service and verification of an honorable discharge, issue an identification card to the presenter that is clearly marked "veteran," at no additional cost.

(d) Issuance of a Rhode Island identification card under this section to a current or past recipient of a grant of deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program shall not confer the right to vote in the state of Rhode Island.

SECTION 2. Section 31-10-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**31-10-1. License required to drive.**

(a) No person, except those expressly exempted in this chapter, shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless that person has a valid license as an operator or chauffeur under the provisions of this chapter. No person shall receive an operator's license unless and until he or she surrenders to the division of motor vehicles all valid operators' licenses and identification cards in his or her possession issued to that person by this state or any other ~~jurisdiction~~ state or territory of the United States. All surrendered licenses shall be returned by the division of motor vehicles to the issuer together with the information that the licensee is now licensed in this state. No person shall be permitted to have more than one valid operator's license at any time. Any resident as defined under § 31-1-18 shall be required to obtain a Rhode Island operator's or chauffeur's license within thirty (30) days of establishing residency.

(b) No person shall drive a motor vehicle as a chauffeur unless he or she holds a valid

1 chauffeur's license. No person shall receive a chauffeur's license unless and until he or she  
2 surrenders to the division of motor vehicles any operator's license issued to him or her, or an  
3 affidavit that he or she does not possess an operator's license.

4 (c) Any person holding a valid chauffeur's license under this chapter need not procure an  
5 operator's license.

6 (d) Any person licensed as an operator or chauffeur under this chapter may exercise the  
7 privilege granted by that license upon all streets and highways in this state, and shall not be required  
8 to obtain any other license to exercise that privilege by any county, municipal, or local board, or  
9 by any body having authority to adopt local police regulations.

10 SECTION 3. Section 31-46-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-46 entitled "Rhode Island  
11 Salvage Law" is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **31-46-4. Restoration.**

13 If a motor vehicle is restored for operation on the highways, application shall be made to  
14 the division of motor vehicles for a certificate of title. Upon inspection by the division of motor  
15 vehicles, which shall include establishing proof of ownership, and upon the surrender of the salvage  
16 certificate of title, the division of motor vehicles shall issue a certificate of title for a fee prescribed  
17 by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles. The certificate of title shall be in the same  
18 form and color as the original certificate and bear the same number as the salvage certificate and  
19 the original certificate and shall bear the word "~~re-constructed~~ rebuilt salvage" on the title. A fee  
20 of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) shall be assessed for each inspection made pursuant to this section.

21 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect upon passage and section 3 shall  
22 take effect six (6) months after passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES

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1           This act would prohibit the holding of multiple drivers licenses or identification cards and  
2 would change the term "re-constructed salvage" to "rebuilt salvage" for purposes of the Rhode  
3 Island salvage law.

4           Sections 1 and 2 of this act would take effect upon passage and section 3 would take effect  
5 six (6) months after passage.

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