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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Appollonio, Lauria, Gallo, Burke, LaMountain, and Britto

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-48.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled "Registration
2 of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-48.1. Plates for recipients of Distinguished Service Cross.**

4 (a) The administrator of motor vehicles is empowered to make available to recipients of
5 the United States Army Distinguished Service Cross medal a special motor vehicle registration
6 plate for any motor vehicle eligible for registration as an automobile or commercial vehicle having
7 a gross weight of twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less, indicating the owner as a recipient
8 of the Distinguished Service Cross. ~~The applicant shall be required to pay a registration fee and a~~
9 ~~transfer charge of five dollars (\$5.00) for the plate.~~

10 (b) The plate shall contain the words "Distinguished Service Cross" across the top of the
11 plate, shall bear an insignia for the distinguished service cross, and then a numeral or numerals.

12 (c) Upon the death of the holder of any "Distinguished Service Cross" plate, the plate shall
13 be transferred to the surviving spouse for the spouse's lifetime or until remarriage.

14 (d) The applicant shall not be required to pay a registration fee or service charge for the
15 plates.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would remove the fee for registration and plate transfer for a Distinguished Service
- 2 Cross registration plate.
- 3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2027.

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