

2017 -- H 5138

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- EXCISE ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Barros, Shanley, Edwards, and Knight

Date Introduced: January 18, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 44-18 of the General Laws entitled "Sales and Use Taxes -
2 Liability and Computation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **44-18-41. Exemption for qualified plug-in electric drive vehicles.**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of the general laws to the contrary, the gross receipts from
5 the sale of qualified plug-in electric drive vehicles are exempt from the taxes imposed by this
6 chapter and shall be taxed in conformance with the provisions of §44-34-15.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 44-34 of the General Laws entitled "Excise on Motor Vehicles and
8 Trailers" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **44-34-15. Exemption for plug-in electric drive vehicles.**

10 (a) For purposes of this section and §44-18-41, the following terms shall have the
11 following meanings:

12 (1) "Excise tax" or "sales tax" means the tax imposed by this title.

13 (2) "Qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle" means a four-wheeled motor vehicle that:

14 (i) Is made by a manufacturer;

15 (ii) Is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways;

16 (iii) Is acquired for use or lease by the taxpayer and not for resale;

17 (iv) Is rated at not more than eight thousand, five hundred pounds (8,500 lbs.) unloaded
18 gross vehicle weight;

19 (v) Has a maximum speed capability of at least fifty-five (55) miles per hour;

1 (vi) Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity from a
2 battery that:

3 (A) Has a capacity of not less than four kilowatt hours (4 kwh); and

4 (B) Is capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity.

5 (viii) Is acquired by the taxpayer on or after October 1, 2012, but before July 1, 2017.

6 (b) Tax credit. (1) A credit is allowed against the excise tax or sales tax imposed for a
7 qualified plug-in electric drive vehicle.

8 (2) Subject to the limitations of subsections (c) through (e) of this section, the credit
9 allowed under this section equals one hundred percent (100%) of the excise tax or sales tax
10 imposed for a vehicle.

11 (c) The credit allowed under this section shall not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

12 (d) The credit allowed under this section is limited to the acquisition of:

13 (1) One vehicle per individual; and

14 (2) Ten (10) vehicles per business entity.

15 (e) A credit may not be claimed under this section:

16 (1) Unless the vehicle is registered in the state; or

17 (2) Unless the owner has already conformed to any applicable state or federal laws or
18 regulations governing clean-fuel vehicle or electric vehicle purchases applicable during the
19 calendar year in which the vehicle is titled.

20 (f) The department of revenue shall administer the credit under this section.

21 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 exempt qualified plug-in electric drive vehicles from excise taxes.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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