

2012 -- H 7013

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LC00181
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Martin, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: January 04, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled "Registration
2 of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-16. General assembly plates.** -- (a) The administrator of the division of motor
4 vehicles is directed to make available to each duly elected member of the senate and of the house
5 of representatives of the general assembly of the state of Rhode Island and Providence
6 Plantations, so long as the member is serving during the term for which he or she has been elected
7 as a member of the general assembly and no longer, two (2) special motor vehicle registration
8 plates carrying on the first plate as a courtesy the word "senate" in the case of the senate, and the
9 word "house" in the case of the house of representatives. On the second set of plates, in addition
10 to the wording above, the letter "a" denoting auxiliary shall be placed on the plates. The plates are
11 to have special identifying numbers corresponding to the number of the senatorial or
12 representative district from which the member was elected.

13 (b) The special motor vehicle registration plates shall carry thereon the design and the
14 seal of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and shall be designed, sold, and
15 attached to the motor vehicle without cost to the state.

16 (c) Each member of any general assembly, at the expiration of his or her term as
17 member, unless reelected, may retain the special motor vehicle registration plates in his or her
18 own keeping, provided he or she does not display the plates upon any motor vehicle or any other
19 form of transportation owned or operated by the member.

1 (d) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall be deemed a
2 civil violation, and any person displaying a special motor vehicle registration plate upon any
3 vehicle shall, upon conviction, be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) for each offense.

4 (e) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall reserve for the future use of
5 each member of the general assembly the private registration plates which he or she turns into the
6 division of motor vehicles in return for legislator's plates. The administrator of the division of
7 motor vehicles shall annually, during the month of January, submit a written notice to each
8 member of the general assembly notifying him or her of the private registration plates which are
9 being reserved for his or her future use. The notice shall indicate the registration plate designation
10 and the legislator for which it is being reserved. Each member of the general assembly, during his
11 or her term as member, may retain his or her private registration plates in his or her own keeping,
12 and may, at any time during that term of office, display either set of plates upon the motor vehicle
13 to which they are properly registered.

14 (f) In a state of emergency, any member of the general assembly driving a vehicle
15 bearing a special motor vehicle registration plate shall be authorized and empowered to travel
16 upon the highways of the state notwithstanding any driving ban imposed by any state or
17 municipal authority.

18 SECTION 2. 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 allow members of the general assembly to retain his/her private
2 registration plates and would allow him/her to display either set of plates upon a properly
3 registered motor vehicle owned by him/her.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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