

2013 -- S 0275

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LC00803  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES  
GENERALLY

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Miller, Cool Rumsey, Cote, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: February 12, 2013

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-23-51 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-23 entitled  
2 "Equipment and Accessories Generally" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-23-51. Earphones and headsets prohibited.** -- (a) A person shall not drive a bicycle  
4 or motor vehicle upon any highway while wearing earphones or a headset. Any person who  
5 violates this section shall be fined (1) eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) for the first offense, (2) ninety-  
6 five dollars (\$95.00) for the second offense, and (3) one hundred forty dollars (\$140) for the third  
7 and each subsequent offense.

8 (b) This section shall not apply to any emergency vehicle operator using an integrated  
9 intercom system.

10 (c) This section does not prohibit the use of hearing aids or other devices for improving  
11 the hearing of the operator of a bicycle or motorcycle.

12 (d) This section shall not prohibit any operator of a bicycle or motorcycle from the use of  
13 communication equipment, that only provides sound through one ear and allows surrounding  
14 sounds to be heard with the other ear.

15 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 the use of hearing aids while operating a bicycle or motorcycle. It  
2 would also permit the operator of a bicycle or motorcycle to use communication equipment that  
3 only provides sound through one ear and allows surrounding sounds to be heard with the other  
4 ear.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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