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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Doyle, Walaska, Jabour, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-3-104. Special plate for Rhode Island private colleges and universities. -- (a) The**
4 administrator of the division of motor vehicles is empowered to make available special motor
5 vehicle registration plates for passenger vehicles based upon the various independent nonprofit
6 institutions of higher education (Brown University, Bryant University, Johnson & Wales
7 University, New England Institute of Technology, Providence College, Rhode Island School of
8 Design, Roger Williams University, and/or Salve Regina University) for any motor vehicle
9 eligible for registration as an automobile or commercial vehicle having a gross weight of ten
10 thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.) or less.

11 (b) The special plate(s) shall be displayed upon the same registration number assigned to
12 the vehicle for which it was issued and shall be used in place of and in the same manner as the
13 registration plates issued to the vehicle. The original registration plates for the vehicle shall be
14 removed from the vehicle and the registration certificate for the plates shall be carried in the
15 vehicle, in accordance with § 31-3-9. The registration certificate shall be in effect for the special
16 plate. The administrator shall be authorized to retain newly issued plate numbers, at his or her
17 discretion, for the purpose of conducting auctions of the right to use and display those numbers
18 under such terms and conditions as the administrator may permit. Auction proceeds shall be
19 apportioned and distributed to each respective institution whose plates have been issued, in the

1 discretion of the administrator, in accordance with such agreements as may be entered into those
2 entities holding ownership rights to the logos. The administrator is hereby authorized to enter into
3 agreements for the use of logos on Rhode Island registration plates.

4 (c) The respective independent higher education institution's motor vehicle plates shall be
5 the same size as regular motor vehicle plates and shall be designed in conjunction with the
6 division of motor vehicles, with design approval by the Rhode Island state police.

7 (d) Each independent higher education institution plate shall be subject to a minimum
8 prepaid order of at least nine hundred (900) plates per institution. The respective independent
9 higher education institution plate shall not be issued unless the minimum order requirements are
10 met by the requesting institution. The initial order will be handled by the president of the
11 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICU RI), or his/her
12 designee, and shall not be submitted to the division of motor vehicles for production until the
13 minimum order has been met and the proper paperwork submitted to the division. The AICU RI
14 president, or his/her designee, will act as program coordinator and point of contact for the
15 division of motor vehicles. Subsequent independent higher education institution plate orders will
16 be handled by the division of motor vehicles.

17 (e) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall develop application forms,
18 prepayment procedures and any other procedures deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of
19 this section.

20 (f) In addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, independent higher
21 education institution plates shall be subject to a forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge.

22 (g) The forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge shall be allocated as follows: twenty
23 dollars (\$20.00) shall be allocated to the general fund and the remaining twenty dollars (\$20.00)
24 shall be distributed annually to the respective independent higher education institution as a
25 nonprofit educational institution based in Rhode Island.

26 (h) A ten dollar (\$10.00) surcharge for subsequent registration will go to the respective
27 independent higher education institution.

28 (i) There shall be no refunds for early cancellation of independent higher education
29 institution plates.

30 (j) Any respective independent higher education institution not pursuing or not reaching
31 the minimum prepaid order of plates, as outlined in subsection (d) of this section, within thirty-six
32 (36) months after this section is enacted will not be eligible to obtain special motor vehicle
33 registration plates as outlined above, absent further action of the general assembly.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would permit the division of motor vehicles to create a special registration plate
- 2 for private colleges and universities within the state.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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