

2016 -- S 2371

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LC003875
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
LICENSES -- VIOLATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, Lombardi, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-11-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-11 entitled
2 "Suspension or Revocation of Licenses - Violations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-11-18. Driving after denial, suspension, or revocation of license. --** (a) Any person
4 who drives a motor vehicle on any highway of this state who never applied for a license, or who
5 drives after his or her application for a license has been refused, or after his or her license has
6 expired or who otherwise drives without a license, or at a time when his or her license to operate
7 is suspended, revoked, or cancelled, for reasons other than those provided for in § 31-11-18.1,
8 ~~shall~~ may be guilty of a misdemeanor.

9 (b) ~~The division of motor vehicles, upon receiving a record of the conviction of any~~
10 ~~person upon a charge of driving a motor vehicle while the license of the person was suspended,~~
11 ~~shall suspend the person's license for an additional three (3) months. Upon receiving a record of~~
12 ~~second violation, the division of motor vehicles shall suspend the license for an additional six (6)~~
13 ~~months. Any subsequent conviction shall result in license revocation. Upon receiving a record of~~
14 ~~conviction of any person upon a charge of driving after his or her application for a license has~~
15 ~~been refused, or upon a charge of driving by one who never applied for a license or who~~
16 ~~otherwise drives without a license, or after his or her license has expired or has been revoked or~~
17 ~~canceled, the division of motor vehicles shall not issue a new license for an additional period of~~
18 ~~one year from and after the date the person would otherwise have been entitled to apply for a new~~

1 ~~license.~~

2 Upon a first ~~conviction~~ violation under this section, a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of not less than
3 ~~two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)~~ one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars
4 (\$500) shall be imposed; ~~and imprisonment for a term not to exceed thirty (30) days may be~~
5 ~~imposed.~~ For the second ~~and any subsequent conviction~~ violation, a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of not less
6 than ~~three hundred fifty dollars (\$350)~~ two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than one thousand
7 dollars (\$1,000) ~~may shall~~ be imposed ~~and an imprisonment for up to one year may be imposed.~~
8 ~~The imposition of fines may be in addition to the suspension of license that may be imposed by~~
9 ~~the court.~~

10 (c) Any person convicted of a third or a subsequent violation of subsection (a) of this
11 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may, in the discretion of the sentencing judge, be
12 imprisoned for a term not exceeding ninety (90) days, fined not less than five hundred dollars
13 (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. Additionally, the sentencing judge
14 may suspend the person's license for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

15 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person driving
16 after his or her license has expired shall be issued a summons to appear in district court not fewer
17 than ten (10) days after the issuance of the summons, and shall not be taken into custody based
18 solely on this charge absent a warrant. Any person who shall cause his or her expired license to
19 be reinstated by the division of motor vehicles within ten (10) days after issuance of the summons
20 may present proof of reinstatement at the headquarters of the charging police department.
21 Presentation of proof of reinstatement within ten (10) days after the issuance of the summons
22 shall cause the summons to be voided and shall otherwise constitute a complete defense to the
23 charge of driving after expiration of license and a bar to prosecution for that charge. Any
24 ~~summons or records relating to the summons~~ convictions under subsection (c) of this section shall
25 be ~~expunged~~ automatically eligible for expungement pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1.3 of
26 title 12. For the purposes of this subsection, each of the several state police barracks shall be
27 considered as a separate police headquarters.

28 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 change first and second offenses for driving with a suspended or expired
2 license to civil violations and would also reduce the potential monetary penalty. This act would
3 also give discretion to the sentencing judge on third and subsequent offenses, declared
4 misdemeanors, to impose jail sentences and license suspensions.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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