

2019 -- H 5464

LC001200

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTORCYCLE CHARITY RIDES

Introduced By: Representatives Jacquard, Bennett, Solomon, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: February 14, 2019

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 31 of the General Laws entitled "MOTOR AND OTHER
2 VEHICLES" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 54

4 MOTORCYCLE CHARITY RIDES

5 **31-54-1. Event permit.**

6 (a) Every organizer of a motorcycle charity ride shall make application to the Rhode
7 Island department of transportation and receive an approved parade/event permit prior to the
8 operation of any motorcycle charity ride on state roads.

9 (b) The organizer of a motorcycle charity ride shall comply with any conditions or
10 stipulations specified by the department of transportation in approval and issuance of the
11 parade/event permit.

12 (c) Nothing within this chapter shall prohibit any municipality from requiring the
13 motorcycle charity ride to comply with municipal ordinances, regulations, and permit
14 requirements for operation of a motorcycle charity ride on municipal roadways pursuant to § 31-
15 12-12.

16 **31-54-2. Motorcycle charity rides.**

17 (a) Operators of motorcycles in a charity ride must exercise due care when participating
18 in the charity ride.

19 (b) A motorcycle in a charity ride shall follow the preceding motorcycle in the charity

1 ride as closely as is practicable and safe. Any ordinance, law, or regulation requiring that
2 motorcycles be operated to allow sufficient space between them to enable another vehicle to enter
3 and occupy that space without danger shall not be applicable to motorcycles in a charity ride.

4 (c) The operator of a motorcycle in a charity ride may not drive the motorcycle at a speed
5 greater than:

6 (1) Fifty-five (55) miles per hour on a highway where the posted speed limit is fifty-five
7 (55) miles per hour or more; or

8 (2) Five (5) miles per hour below the posted speed limit on other streets or roads.

9 (d) A motorcycle being operated in any charity ride must have its headlights and tail
10 lights illuminated.

11 (e) The turn signals must be flashing simultaneously as warning lights on a motorcycle
12 that is the first vehicle in a charity ride and that motorcycle which the operator has reason to
13 believe is the last motorcycle in the charity ride.

14 **31-54-3. Right-of-way.**

15 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, pedestrians and operators of all
16 vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to any motorcycle which is part of a charity ride being led by
17 a police escort vehicle.

18 (b) Whenever the police escort vehicle lawfully enters an intersection, either by reason of
19 a traffic control device or at the direction of law enforcement personnel, the remaining
20 motorcycles in the charity ride may continue to follow the police escort vehicle through the
21 intersection despite any traffic control devices or right-of-way provisions of state or local
22 ordinances; provided, the operator of each vehicle exercises reasonable care toward any other
23 vehicle or pedestrian on the roadway.

24 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, an operator of a police escort
25 vehicle may direct the operators of motorcycles in a charity ride to proceed through an
26 intersection or to make turns or other movements despite any traffic control device. The operator
27 of a police escort vehicle may direct and control the operators of vehicles not in a charity ride,
28 including those in or approaching an intersection, to stop, proceed, or make turns or other
29 movements without regard to a traffic control device. Police escort vehicles may exceed the speed
30 limit when overtaking the charity ride to direct traffic at the next intersection.

31 (d) Motorcycle charity ride participants led by a police escort vehicle shall have the right-
32 of-way at intersections regardless of traffic control devices, subject to the following conditions
33 and exceptions:

34 (1) Operators of motorcycles in a charity ride shall yield the right-of-way to an

1 approaching emergency vehicle giving an audible or visible signal;

2 (2) Operators of motorcycles in a charity ride shall yield the right-of-way when directed
3 to do so by law enforcement personnel; and

4 (3) Operators of motorcycles in a charity ride must exercise due care when participating
5 in a charity ride.

6 **31-54-4. Vehicles not in charity ride.**

7 The operator of a vehicle that is not part of a motorcycle charity ride may not:

8 (1) Drive between the motorcycles engaged in the charity ride while they are in motion
9 except when authorized to do so by law enforcement personnel or when driving an authorized
10 emergency vehicle emitting an audible or visible signal.

11 (2) Join a motorcycle charity ride to secure the right-of-way as granted by this chapter.

12 (3) Pass a motorcycle charity ride on a multiple lane highway on the charity ride's right
13 side unless a funeral procession is in the farthest left lane.

14 (4) Enter an intersection, even if the operator is facing a green traffic control signal, when
15 a charity ride is proceeding through a red traffic control signal at the intersection as permitted
16 under this chapter, unless the operator can do so without crossing the path of the charity ride. If
17 the red signal changes to green while the charity ride is within the intersection, the operator of the
18 vehicle facing a green signal may proceed subject to the right-of-way of a motorcycle
19 participating in a charity ride.

20 (5) Any person who willfully violates this section shall be guilty of a civil violation, and
21 shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001200
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTORCYCLE CHARITY RIDES

1 This act would provide that organizers of motorcycle charity rides receive a permit from
2 the department of transportation. Motorcycle charity rides with a police escort may proceed
3 through an intersection despite traffic control devices.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001200
=====