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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' LICENSE - SAFE  
ROADS AND MANDATORY INSURANCE

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Goodwin, Nesselbush, Conley, and Miller

Date Introduced: January 24, 2019

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-10-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'  
2 and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-10-26. Issuance of license.**

4 (a) Licenses – Valid form of identification. The division of motor vehicles (the  
5 "division") shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every qualifying applicant an  
6 operator's or chauffeur's license. The license shall be approximately two and one-half inches (2  
7 1/2") wide and three and one-half inches (3 1/2") long and shall bear on it a distinguishing  
8 number assigned to the licensee; the full name; date of birth; residence address; brief description  
9 of the licensee; a photograph of the licensee; whether the licensee has indicated a desire to donate  
10 tissue or organs pursuant to the provisions of chapter ~~18.6~~ 18.6.1 of title 23; and either a space  
11 upon which the licensee shall write his or her usual signature with pen and ink or a facsimile of  
12 the signature of the licensee. No license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the licensee  
13 designated on it. ~~A negative~~ An electronic file of all photographs of licensees shall be maintained  
14 by the division of motor vehicles for a period of five (5) years.

15 Any applicant for a license under this subsection shall be required by the division to  
16 provide a valid social security number unless the applicant provides satisfactory proof that their  
17 presence in the United States is authorized under federal law, but they are ineligible for a social  
18 security number. A license issued under this subsection shall be a valid form of identification for

1 federal or state purposes.

2 (b) Driving privilege license – Not valid form of identification. Subject to the  
3 requirements and limitations of § 31-10-49, the division of motor vehicles shall, upon payment of  
4 the required fee, issue to every qualifying applicant a driving privilege permit or driving privilege  
5 license. The license shall be approximately two and one-half inches (2 1/2") wide and three and  
6 one-half inches (3 1/2") long and shall bear on it a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee,  
7 the full name, date of birth, residence address, brief description of the licensee, a photograph of  
8 the licensee, whether the licensee has indicated a desire to donate tissue or organs pursuant to the  
9 provisions of chapter 18.6.1 of title 23, and either a space upon which the licensee shall write  
10 their usual signature with pen and ink or a facsimile of the signature of the licensee. No driving  
11 privilege license or driving privilege permit shall be valid until it has been so signed by the  
12 licensee designated on it. All driving privilege licenses and driving privilege permits shall include  
13 a clear written indication on such license or permit that it shall not be a valid form of  
14 identification for federal purposes or state voting purposes. The driving privilege license shall be  
15 similar to a regular license with a different color in the license number field as in the license  
16 issued pursuant to § 31-10-26(a). The driving privilege permit shall be similar to a regular permit  
17 with a different color in the permit number field as in the driving permit issued pursuant to §§ 31-  
18 10-6 and 31-10-7. An electronic file of all photographs of licensees and permittees shall be  
19 maintained by the division of motor vehicles for a period of five (5) years. A driving privilege  
20 license holder shall not be eligible for a chauffeur endorsement under § 31-10-5. A driving  
21 privilege license or permit holder shall not be eligible for a license issued under § 31-10-26(a)  
22 when renewing a driving privilege license or permit unless the applicant meets all of the  
23 requirements for a license issued under § 31-10-26(a) including documentation to verify legal  
24 presence in the United States.

25 ~~(b)~~(c) The division of motor vehicles shall issue an operator's or chauffeur's license  
26 pursuant to this chapter to every qualifying applicant, including, but not limited to, any current or  
27 past recipient of a grant of deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals  
28 (DACA) program, provided any applicant subject to the DACA program shall provide evidence  
29 of having received the grant from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

30 ~~(c)~~(d) The division of motor vehicles shall issue special licenses to those licensees who  
31 have indicated that they desire to donate tissue or organs, which conform to the provisions of the  
32 Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, chapter 18.6.1 of title 23.

33 ~~(d)~~(e) Any person who is a law enforcement officer, meaning any permanently employed  
34 member of the state, city, or town police departments, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, members of

1 the marshal's unit, capitol police, and the state fire marshal and deputy fire marshals of the  
2 division of building, design and fire professionals or a member of the department of attorney  
3 general, any permanently employed federal law enforcement officer assigned in Rhode Island, or  
4 any member of the United States Attorney's Office in Rhode Island or any employee of the R.I.  
5 department of corrections, as recommended by the director of the department of corrections, upon  
6 request of the applicant, shall be issued a license that contains the applicant's official business  
7 address in lieu of a residence address as required under the general provisions of this section.

8 ~~(e)~~(f) The license issued [hereunder](#) to a person applying for the first time shall be  
9 designated as a "first license". A first license shall be issued for a one-year period after which  
10 time a permanent driver's license shall be issued according to this section.

11 ~~(e)~~(g) If an applicant [for a license hereunder](#) has been adjudicated for committing one  
12 moving motor vehicle violation, has been involved in one reportable motor vehicle accident, or  
13 both, he or she shall be summoned for a hearing before a judge of the traffic tribunal at which  
14 time the driving record will be reviewed. The traffic tribunal judge shall determine if the person  
15 should be granted an operator's license, be reissued a first license, or be denied a license to  
16 operate a motor vehicle in the state of Rhode Island.

17 ~~(e)~~(h) Any person who is under the age of twenty-one (21) years shall, upon payment of  
18 the required fee and upon meeting the qualifications for the receipt of an operator's or chauffeur's  
19 license, be issued a license that shall be readily distinguishable in color from those licenses issued  
20 to persons who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older. When a person under the age of twenty-  
21 one (21) years to whom a license has been issued and whose license is in full force and effect,  
22 attains his or her twenty-first birthday, he or she shall be entitled to receive a new license of the  
23 type issued to persons who are ~~older than the age of~~ twenty-one (21) years [of age or older](#) from  
24 the administrator of the division of motor vehicles upon demand at no expense. Every person  
25 shall supply to the division of motor vehicles satisfactory proof of his or her date of birth.

26 ~~(e)~~(i) The division of motor vehicles shall issue special licenses upon the request of a  
27 licensee that conform to the provisions of the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, chapter  
28 18.6.1 of title 23.

29 ~~(e)~~(j) The division of motor vehicles shall note in an appropriate manner a restriction on  
30 any person's license who is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an  
31 ignition interlock system as provided in chapter 27 of this title.

32 ~~(e)~~(k) Any personal digitized information contained within an operator's or chauffeur's  
33 license shall be limited to: (a) the licensee's name, age, date of birth, address, gender, physical  
34 description such as weight, height, hair color and eye color, signature and organ donor status; and

1 (b) the license number, commercial endorsements, expiration date, issue date, restriction, and  
2 class.

3 ~~(l)~~(l) Except to the extent an entity is authorized to renew drivers' licenses, or except for  
4 financial institutions engaged in the verification of information for financial transactions,  
5 nongovernmental entities shall not have access to any digitized information contained in an  
6 operator's or chauffeur's license other than the licensee's name, age, date of birth, signature, and  
7 photographic image, and the license's expiration date; nor shall they store, record, or retain any  
8 such information obtained through a digital reading device. Access to digitized information by  
9 these entities shall be solely for the purpose of determining the age of an individual for a  
10 transaction, right, or privilege available by law only to persons of a certain age.

11 ~~(m)~~(m) To the extent that nongovernmental entities shall have access to the digitized  
12 information stored on an operator's or chauffeur's license, the entity shall be civilly liable for the  
13 unauthorized access to, or retention or use of, the information by its agents or persons acting in  
14 the name of the entity.

15 ~~(n)~~(n) The division of motor vehicles shall collect from applicants and licensees their  
16 social security numbers and tax identification numbers only to the extent required by federal law.  
17 The numbers shall not be included, either digitally or visually, on the operator's or chauffeur's  
18 license.

19 ~~(o)~~(o) Issuance of a Rhode Island operator's license under this chapter to a current or past  
20 recipient of a grant of deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)  
21 program shall not confer the right to vote in the state of Rhode Island.

22 SECTION 2. Chapter 31-10 of the General Laws entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs'  
23 Licenses" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

24 **31-10-49. Driving privilege licenses and driving privilege permits.**

25 (a) In order to ensure that all drivers are knowledgeable of traffic safety laws and the safe  
26 operation of a motor vehicle, the division of motor vehicles is authorized to issue driving  
27 privilege licenses and driving privilege permits to any applicant who meets the licensure  
28 requirements of this chapter but is unable to establish legal presence in the United States;  
29 provided, however, such applicant shall submit the following documentation:

30 (1) Any one of the following documents that reliably proves the applicant's name, date of  
31 birth, and place of birth:

32 (i) A foreign birth certificate;

33 (ii) A valid foreign passport that is unexpired or expired for less than three (3) years,  
34 before the application for a driving privilege license or driving privilege permit is filed; or

1           (iii) A valid unexpired consular identification document as authorized by the  
2 administrator; and

3           (2) Any one of the following additional documents to establish identity and residency:

4           (i) A certified record of the applicant's marriage, adoption, divorce, or other valid court  
5 document including a certified translation if the document is not in English;

6           (ii) A valid driver's license or state identification card issued by another state or U.S.  
7 Territory;

8           (iii) A U.S. military identification card;

9           (iv) A U.S. military dependent identification card;

10           (v) A valid foreign driver's license with the "International Driving Permit";

11           (vi) A certified school record including a certified translation if the document is not in  
12 English;

13           (vii) An INS Form I-688 (Temporary Resident ID Card);

14           (viii) INS Forms I-688B and I-765 (Employment Authorization);

15           (ix) An INS Form I-94; or

16           (x) The first page of a completed Homeland Security Form I-589 and a receipt of its  
17 filing;

18           (3) Two (2) forms of proof of a Rhode Island residential address that would include:

19           (i) A utility bill (gas, electric, telephone, cable or oil) in the applicant's name or in the  
20 name of an immediate family member with the same last name dated within the last sixty (60)  
21 days; or

22           (ii) A personal check or bank statement with the applicant's name and address dated  
23 within the last sixty (60) days, provided, a post office box will not be accepted as a sufficient  
24 address; or

25           (iii) A homeowner's or rental insurance policy for the applicant's residence with the  
26 applicant's name and address; or

27           (iv) A current property tax bill for the applicant's residence; or

28           (v) A letter from a Rhode Island shelter or halfway house indicating where the applicant  
29 resides. Such letter shall be on letterhead, shall be dated within thirty (30) days of presentation,  
30 and must include the name and contact information of an administrator of the shelter or halfway  
31 house; or

32           (vi) Any additional form of proof set forth in rules and regulations to be promulgated by  
33 the division of motor vehicles;

34           (4) Certification from the tax administrator that the applicant has filed tax returns with

1 this state for the two (2) years preceding applying for a driving privilege license or driving  
2 privilege permit or the applicant has resided in Rhode Island and has been claimed as a dependent  
3 by an individual who has filed tax returns with this state for the two (2) years preceding applying  
4 for a driving privilege license or driving privilege permit; and

5 (5) Files an affidavit with the division of motor vehicles attesting that such applicant has  
6 filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file such an application as soon as  
7 they are eligible to do so.

8 (b) Applicants for a driving privilege license will not be required to comply with  
9 successful completion of the written exam required by § 31-10-21 and the road test required by §  
10 31-10-22 if they can provide one of the following:

11 (1) A current valid driver's license issued by a state or U.S. territory, not to include  
12 driving privilege licenses or similar privileges given by other states; or

13 (2) In the event the driver's license issued by another state or U.S. territory has expired by  
14 less than one year, a certified driving record issued less than thirty (30) days prior to application  
15 will be accepted.

16 (c) Applicants under the age of eighteen (18) shall be required to comply with all of the  
17 education and testing requirements set forth in §§ 31-10-19 through 31-10-22 and all of the  
18 provisions of the graduated licenses statutes set forth in §§ 31-10-6 through 31-10-6.5.

19 (d) Applicants eighteen (18) years of age and older who do not meet the driving  
20 experience requirement in § 31-10-49(b) shall be required to comply with all testing requirements  
21 set forth in §§ 31-10-21 through 31-10-22.

22 (e) For purposes of this title the term "license" shall include the "driving privilege  
23 license" and "permit" shall include "driving privilege permit" as defined by this section and all  
24 examinations, education requirements, residency requirements, penalties, fees and all other  
25 provisions for a license or permit shall also apply to the driving privilege license and driving  
26 privilege permit.

27 (f) Holders of a driving privilege license or driving privilege permit will be required to  
28 conduct all renewals in person and comply with all documentation requirements in § 31-10-49(a).

29 (g) The driving privilege license and the driving privilege permit shall not be a valid form  
30 of identification for federal purposes or state voting purposes.

31 (h) The applicant for a driving privilege license and the driving privilege permit shall be  
32 required to comply with all other applicable Rhode Island laws and applicable rules and  
33 regulations.

34 (i) The division of motor vehicles shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the

1 provisions of this section.

2 (j) A driving privilege license or a driving privilege permit shall not be used as evidence  
3 of the holder's citizenship or immigration status, and shall not be used as a basis for a criminal  
4 investigation, arrest or detention in circumstances where a person with a regular driver's license  
5 that was not issued under this section would be criminally investigated, arrested or detained.  
6 Provided further, any person aggrieved by a violation of this section may seek appropriate  
7 declaratory and/or injunctive relief and may be awarded damages and costs, including attorneys'  
8 fees.

9 (k) It shall be a violation of chapter 112 of title 42 to discriminate against an individual  
10 because they hold or present a driving privilege license or driving privilege permit issued under  
11 this subsection.

12 (l) If the United States Department of Homeland Security determines that the licensing or  
13 permit program established pursuant to this section does not satisfy the requirements of 6 C.F.R.  
14 § 37.71 adopted pursuant to section 202(d)(11) of the Real ID Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-13), the  
15 division of motor vehicles shall modify the license or permit to comply with the Real ID Act of  
16 2005 and any revisions made thereafter.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' LICENSE - SAFE  
ROADS AND MANDATORY INSURANCE

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1           This act would allow the department of motor vehicles to issue driving privilege licenses  
2 and driving privilege permits to applicants unable to establish lawful presence in the United  
3 States. The driving privilege licenses and driving privilege permits would not be valid for  
4 identification purposes.

5           This act would take effect on July 1, 2019.

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