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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- QUADRICYCLE PASSENGER  
VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representative Arthur Handy

Date Introduced: February 26, 2020

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-1 entitled "Definitions and  
2 General Code Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-1-3. Types of vehicles.**

4 (a)(1) "Antique motor car" means any motor vehicle that is more than twenty-five (25)  
5 years old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection requirements, the vehicle may be  
6 maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public  
7 interest. The vehicle may also be used for limited enjoyment and purposes other than the previously  
8 mentioned activities, but may not be used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods  
9 over any public highway.

10 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate may  
11 be issued to it on payment of the standard fee. The vehicle may be operated on the highways of this  
12 and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the designation "antique" and  
13 display an "antique plate."

14 (3) For any vehicle that is more than twenty-five (25) years old, the division of motor  
15 vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated by  
16 the administrator, a "year of manufacture plate" for the vehicle that is an exact replica plate  
17 designating the exact year of manufacture of the vehicle. The year of manufacture plate, as  
18 authorized by this subsection, need only be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

1 (b)(1) "Antique motorcycle" means any motorcycle that is more than twenty-five (25) years  
2 old. Unless fully inspected and meeting inspection requirements, the vehicle shall be maintained  
3 solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest. The  
4 vehicle may also be used for limited enjoyment and purposes other than the previously mentioned  
5 activities, but may not be used primarily for the transportation of passengers or goods over any  
6 public highway; and

7 (2) After the vehicle has met the requirements of state inspection, a registration plate may  
8 be issued to it, on payment of the standard fee, and the vehicle may be operated on the highways  
9 of this and other states, and may, in addition to the registration plate, retain the designation  
10 "antique" and display an "antique plate."

11 (c) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means vehicles of the fire department (fire patrol);  
12 police vehicles; vehicles of the department of corrections while in the performance of official  
13 duties; vehicles used by the state bomb squad within the office of state fire marshal; vehicles of  
14 municipal departments or public service corporations designated or authorized by the administrator  
15 as ambulances and emergency vehicles; and privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer  
16 firefighters or privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer ambulance drivers or attendants, as  
17 authorized by the department chief or commander and permitted by the Rhode Island Association  
18 of Fire Chiefs and Rhode Island Association of Police Chiefs Joint Committee for Volunteer  
19 Warning Light Permits.

20 (d) "Automobile" means, for registration purposes, every motor vehicle carrying  
21 passengers other than for hire.

22 (e) "Bicycle" means every vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and  
23 similar devices, propelled exclusively by human power, and upon which a person may ride.

24 (f) "Camping recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type camping unit, certified by the  
25 manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.2 Standards, designed primarily as temporary living  
26 quarters for recreation that has either its own motor power or is mounted on, or towed by, another  
27 vehicle. The basic units are tent trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, motorized campers, travel trailers, and  
28 pick-up campers.

29 (g) "Electric motorized bicycle" means a motorized bicycle that may be propelled by  
30 human power or electric motor power, or by both, with an electric motor rated not more than two  
31 (2) (S.A.E.) horsepower, that is capable of a maximum speed of not more than twenty-five (25)  
32 miles per hour.

33 (h) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" ("EPAMD") is a self-balancing, non-  
34 tandem two-wheeled (2) device, designed to transport only one person, with an electric propulsion

1 system that limits the maximum speed of the device to fifteen (15) miles per hour.

2 (i) "Fifth-wheel trailer": A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding four hundred (400)  
3 square feet in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that contains a towing mechanism  
4 that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle and that is eligible to be registered  
5 for highway use.

6 (j) "Hearse" means every motor vehicle used for transporting human corpses. A hearse  
7 shall be considered an automobile for registration purposes.

8 (k) "Jitney or bus" means: (1) A "public bus" that includes every motor vehicle, trailer,  
9 semi-trailer, tractor trailer, or tractor trailer combination, used for the transportation of passengers  
10 for hire, and operated wholly or in part upon any street or highway as a means of transportation  
11 similar to that afforded by a street railway company, by indiscriminately receiving or discharging  
12 passengers, or running on a regular route or over any portion of one, or between fixed termini; or  
13 (2) A "private bus" that includes every motor vehicle other than a public bus or passenger van  
14 designed for carrying more than ten (10) passengers and used for the transportation of persons, and  
15 every motor vehicle other than a taxicab designed and used for the transportation of persons for  
16 compensation.

17 (l) "Motorcycle" means only those motor vehicles having not more than three (3) wheels  
18 in contact with the ground and a saddle on which the driver sits astride, except bicycles with helper  
19 motors as defined in subsection (n) of this section.

20 (m) "Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a  
21 motor of no greater than five (5) horsepower, except bicycles with helper motors as defined in  
22 subsection (n) of this section.

23 (n) "Motorized bicycles" means two-wheel (2) vehicles that may be propelled by human  
24 power or helper power, or by both, with a motor rated not more than four and nine-tenths (4.9)  
25 horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters, that are capable of a maximum speed  
26 of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

27 (o) "Motorized camper": A camping recreational vehicle, built on, or permanently attached  
28 to, a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis cab or van that is an integral part of the completed vehicle.

29 (p) "Motorized tricycles" means tricycles that may be propelled by human power or helper  
30 motor, or by both, with a motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower that is capable of a  
31 maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

32 (q) "Motorized wheelchair" means any self-propelled vehicle, designed for, and used by, a  
33 person with a disability that is incapable of speed in excess of eight (8) miles per hour.

34 (r) "Motor scooter" means a motor-driven cycle with a motor rated not more than four and

1 nine-tenths (4.9) horsepower and not greater than fifty (50) cubic centimeters that is capable of a  
2 maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

3 (s) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle that is self-propelled or propelled by electric  
4 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails, except vehicles moved  
5 exclusively by human power, an EPAMD and electric motorized bicycles as defined in subsection  
6 (g) of this section, and motorized wheelchairs.

7 (t) "Motor vehicle for hire" means every motor vehicle other than jitneys, public buses,  
8 hearses, and motor vehicles used chiefly in connection with the conduct of funerals, to transport  
9 persons for compensation in any form, or motor vehicles rented for transporting persons either with  
10 or without furnishing an operator.

11 (u) "Natural gas vehicle" means a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural  
12 gas.

13 (v) "Park trailer": A camping recreational vehicle that is eligible to be registered for  
14 highway use and meets the following criteria: (1) Built on a single chassis mounted on wheels; and  
15 (2) Certified by the manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.5.

16 (w) "Passenger van" means every motor vehicle capable of carrying ten (10) to fourteen  
17 (14) passengers plus an operator and used for personal use or on a not-for-hire basis. Passenger  
18 vans may be used for vanpools, transporting passengers to and from work locations, provided that  
19 the operator receives no remuneration other than free use of the vehicle.

20 (x) "Pedal carriage" (also known as "quadricycles") means a nonmotorized bicycle with  
21 four (4) or more wheels operated by one or more persons for the purpose of, or capable of,  
22 transporting additional passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of or otherwise attached to  
23 the pedal carriage. The term shall not include a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed to  
24 it, nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for the  
25 transportation of a person with a disability, nor shall it include a tricycle built for a child or an adult  
26 with a seat for only one operator and no passenger.

27 (y) "Pick-up camper": A camping recreational vehicle consisting of a roof, floor, and sides  
28 designed to be loaded onto and unloaded from the back of a pick-up truck.

29 (z) "Quadricycles passenger vehicle" means a four-wheeled vehicle propelled by operator  
30 and passengers pedaling with support, as needed from a battery powered engine. It may not carry  
31 more than sixteen (16) passengers and an operator. The motor is used exclusively to propel the  
32 bicycle, and shall not be capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty  
33 (20) miles per hour. Its dimensions shall not exceed one hundred and five-tenths inches (100.5") in  
34 height ninety-four inches (94") in width, or two hundred sixteen inches (216") in length. Cities and

1 [towns that enact resolutions to allow these vehicles, may permit their use on all roads on which](#)  
2 [bicycle use is allowed.](#)

3 ~~(z)~~[\(aa\)](#) "Rickshaw" (also known as "pedi cab") means a nonmotorized bicycle with three  
4 (3) wheels operated by one person for the purpose of, or capable of, transporting additional  
5 passengers in seats or on a platform made a part of, or otherwise attached to, the rickshaw. This  
6 definition shall not include a bicycle built for two (2) where the operators are seated one behind the  
7 other, nor shall it include the operation of a bicycle with trainer or beginner wheels affixed thereto,  
8 nor shall it include a wheelchair or other vehicle with the purpose of operation by or for the  
9 transportation of a person with a disability.

10 ~~(aa)~~[\(bb\)](#) "School bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental  
11 agency, when operated for the transportation of children to or from school; or privately owned,  
12 when operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

13 ~~(bb)~~[\(cc\)](#) "Suburban vehicle" means every motor vehicle with a convertible or  
14 interchangeable body or with removable seats, usable for both passenger and delivery purposes,  
15 and including motor vehicles commonly known as station or depot wagons or any vehicle into  
16 which access can be gained through the rear by means of a hatch or trunk and where the rear seats  
17 can be folded down to permit the carrying of articles as well as passengers.

18 ~~(ee)~~[\(dd\)](#) "Tent trailer": A towable recreational vehicle that is mounted on wheels and  
19 constructed with collapsible partial side walls that fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold  
20 for use and that is eligible to be registered for highway use.

21 ~~(dd)~~[\(ee\)](#) "Trackless trolley coach" means every motor vehicle that is propelled by electric  
22 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated on rails.

23 ~~(ee)~~[\(ff\)](#) "Travel trailer": A towable recreational vehicle, not exceeding three hundred  
24 twenty square feet (320') in area, designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle containing a towing  
25 mechanism that is mounted behind the tow vehicle's bumper and that is eligible to be registered for  
26 highway use.

27 ~~(ff)~~[\(gg\)](#) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or  
28 may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary rails  
29 or tracks.

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

32 **31-3-31.4. Quadricycle passenger vehicles permitted.**

33 [\(a\) Cities and towns may enact an ordinance that regulates quadricycles, as defined in §](#)  
34 [31-1-3 and permit their use on all roads where bicycle use is permitted.](#)

1 (b) All operators of quadricycles shall hold a license to operate a motor vehicle.

2 (c) All owners and operators of quadricycles shall carry a minimum liability insurance  
3 policy of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) on those vehicles.

4 (d) No operator, owner, nor vendor shall sell or permit the sale of alcohol on or from their  
5 quadricycle.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- QUADRICYCLE PASSENGER  
VEHICLES

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- 1           This act would authorize municipalities to regulate the use of quadricycle passenger
- 2 vehicles within their borders.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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