

2020 -- S 2342

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LC004754  
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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 - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Felag, Gallo, McKenney, and Lawson

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-17.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled "Registration  
2 of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-17.1. Courtesy plates.**

4 (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall design and issue under  
5 regulations that he or she deems appropriate, special courtesy automobile, [veterans'](#), motorcycle,  
6 and commercial registration plates to be used on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all  
7 commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than nine thousand pounds (9,000 lbs.) in lieu  
8 of other number plates, [except for special courtesy veterans' plates to be used on passenger motor](#)  
9 [vehicles, motorcycles, and all commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than twelve](#)  
10 [thousand pounds \(12,000 lbs.\), and shall be issued in compliance with the provisions of § 31-3-53.](#)  
11 Special plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters or combinations of letters and  
12 numbers as the administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall prescribe, and shall be made  
13 of light-reflecting sheeting applied on a metal base, provided that no automobile set of plates shall  
14 contain more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination of letters and numbers, or less than  
15 two (2) letters, and that no motorcycle plate shall contain more than five (5) letters or more than  
16 five (5) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2) letters, and that a commercial  
17 courtesy plate shall be marked "commercial," and shall contain no more than six (6) letters or more  
18 than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2) letters, and provided further,  
19 that there shall be no duplication of identification and the administrator of the division of motor

1 vehicles shall, in his or her discretion, refuse to issue any letter or combination of letters and  
2 numbers that might carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency. A special automobile  
3 or commercial courtesy plate shall be issued upon application using forms furnished by the  
4 administrator of the division of motor vehicles, and upon payment, in addition to the regular  
5 prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a service charge of sixty dollars (\$60.00) for each issue  
6 and for each registration renewal. For motorcycles, a special courtesy plate shall be issued upon  
7 application using forms furnished by the division of motor vehicles, and upon payment, in addition  
8 to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a service charge of thirty-four dollars  
9 (\$34.00) for each issue and for each registration renewal. The service charge shall be paid to the  
10 administrator of the division of motor vehicles prior to the administrator's acceptance of the  
11 application. The Rhode Island state lottery commission shall not be required to pay the service  
12 charge for any special courtesy plate issued pursuant to this section for motor vehicles owned or  
13 used by the lottery commission, and may utilize the special courtesy plates on all types of vehicles  
14 owned or operated by the lottery commission.

15 (b) For any vehicle that is registered in accordance with § 31-1-3(a), the division of motor  
16 vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be promulgated by  
17 the administrator, a courtesy registration plate in accordance with the provisions of this section.

18 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 expand the classes of licensed vehicles eligible to obtain courtesy veterans'
- 2 plates.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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