

2023 -- H 5813

LC001827

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, J. Brien, Phillips, Potter, Rea, Chippendale,
Costantino, Kazarian, J. Lombardi, and Cardillo

Date Introduced: February 22, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-38-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-38 entitled "Inspection
2 of Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-38-4. Director of department of revenue to require periodic inspection.**

4 (a)(1) The director of revenue shall at least once each year, but not more frequently than
5 twice each year, or on the schedule defined pursuant to chapter 47.1 of this title require that every
6 vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer registered in this state or upon a retail seller's premise,
7 be inspected and that an official certificate of inspection and approval be obtained for the vehicle,
8 provided, that the director of revenue shall require the first inspection of any new motor vehicle
9 within ~~two (2)~~ seven (7) years from the date of purchase or before the vehicle accumulates twenty-
10 four thousand (24,000) miles whichever occurs first. After the initial inspection the vehicle shall
11 be inspected every seven (7) years.

12 (2) The inspections shall be made and the certificates obtained with respect to the
13 mechanism, brakes, and equipment of the vehicle as shall be designated by the director of
14 department of revenue.

15 (3) The director of the department of revenue is authorized to make necessary rules and
16 regulations for the administration and enforcement of this chapter including, but not limited to,
17 upgraded standards of operation and standards for mechanical testing equipment, and to designate
18 any period or periods of time during which sellers at retail and owners of any vehicles, subject to
19 this chapter, shall display upon the vehicles certificates of inspection and approval, or shall produce

1 these certificates upon demand of any proper officer or employee of the department of revenue
2 designated by the director of the department of revenue. In addition, the director shall require each
3 inspection facility to file a copy of their active garage keeper's legal liability insurance policy and
4 maintain a minimum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) liability coverage. Said coverage
5 shall be purchased for the purpose of insuring against any damage sustained to a vehicle while
6 under the control of the inspection facility.

7 (b) The director of the department of revenue may authorize the acceptance in this state of
8 a certificate of inspection and approval issued in another state having an inspection law similar to
9 this chapter, and may extend the time within which a certificate shall be obtained.

10 (c) The director of the department of revenue, or the director's designee, may suspend the
11 registration of any vehicle which he or she determines is in such unsafe condition as to constitute
12 a menace to safety, or which, after notice and demand, is not equipped as required in this chapter
13 or for which a required certificate of inspection and approval has not been obtained.

14 (d) The director of the department of revenue shall provide for a staggered inspection
15 system by regulations.

16 (e) Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

17 SECTION 2. Section 31-47.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-47.1 entitled "Motor
18 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program" is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **31-47.1-5. Exemptions.**

20 The following motor vehicles shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter:

21 (1) A motor vehicle twenty-five (25) years or older.

22 (2) Any class of motor vehicles that is exempted by regulation of the department because
23 the vehicle presents prohibitive inspection problems or is inappropriate for inspection.

24 (3) Motor vehicles operated exclusively by electric power.

25 (4) New motor vehicles until ~~twenty-four (24)~~ eighty-four (84) months after their date of
26 purchase or twenty-four thousand (24,000) miles, whichever occurs first.

27 (5) Motor vehicles that are in compliance with an enhanced motor vehicle inspection
28 program operated by another jurisdiction may be exempt upon the owner providing a current
29 written certification of compliance, if the inspection program in that jurisdiction is approved by the
30 United States environmental protection agency.

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

=====
LC001827
=====

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

- 1 This act would extend the time for an inspection of a new motor vehicle from two (2) years
- 2 to seven (7) years.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001827
=====