

2026 -- H 8333

LC005031

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Felix, Batista, Perez, Giraldo, Slater, Solomon, Alzate, Stewart, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: March 20, 2026

Referred To: House Special Legislation

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-3-132. Special plate for the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee.**

4 (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles is empowered to make available
5 special motor vehicle registration plates for the Dominican Independence Heritage Award
6 Committee. The plates shall be designed to reference the Dominican Independence Heritage Award
7 Committee.

8 (b) The special plate shall be displayed upon the same registration number assigned to the
9 vehicle for which it was issued and shall be used in place of and in the same manner as the
10 registration plates issued to the vehicle. The original registration plates for the vehicle shall be
11 removed from the vehicle and returned to the division of motor vehicles. The registration certificate
12 for the plates shall be carried in the vehicle in accordance with § 31-3-9. The registration certificate
13 shall be in effect for the special plate.

14 (c) The Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee motor vehicle plates shall
15 be the same size as regular motor vehicle plates and shall be designed by the Dominican
16 Independence Heritage Award Committee in conjunction with the division of motor vehicles, with
17 the design approved by the Rhode Island state police.

18 (d) The Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee plates shall be subject to
19 compliance with § 31-3-117 relating to the number of minimum prepaid orders of plates per plate

1 type (i.e., passenger, commercial, etc.) and any required payment. The Dominican Independence
2 Heritage Award Committee plates shall not be issued unless the minimum order requirements are
3 met. The initial order will be handled by the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee
4 and shall not be submitted to the division of motor vehicles for production until the minimum
5 order(s) have been met and the proper paperwork submitted to the division.

6 (e) The administrator of motor vehicles shall develop prepayment procedures and any other
7 procedures deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

8 (f) In addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, Dominican
9 Independence Heritage Award Committee plates shall be subject to a forty-dollar (\$40.00) issuance
10 surcharge.

11 (g) The forty-dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge shall be allocated as follows: twenty
12 dollars (\$20.00) shall be allocated to the general fund and the remaining twenty dollars (\$20.00)
13 shall be distributed annually to the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee to provide
14 funding for the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee.

15 (h) A ten-dollar (\$10.00) surcharge for subsequent registration renewals shall be allocated
16 to the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee.

17 (i) In consideration of the receipt of funds from the registration of Dominican Independence
18 Heritage Award Committee plates, the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee must
19 use any Rhode Island-sourced funds in and for the benefit of Rhode Island-based charitable
20 organizations.

21 (j) Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee will be required to submit an
22 annual accounting report before such monies are distributed.

23 (k) There shall be no refunds for early cancellation of Dominican Independence Heritage
24 Award Committee plates.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect six (6) months after passage.

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

- 1 This act would empower the division of motor vehicles to make available special motor
- 2 vehicle registration plates for the Dominican Independence Heritage Award Committee of Rhode
- 3 Island.
- 4 This act would take effect six (6) months after passage.

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