

2026 -- S 2718

LC005374

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators Famiglietti, Raptakis, Thompson, Appollonio, Dimitri, Urso, Burke, Patalano, Tikoian, and Valverde

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-41.1-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-41.1 entitled  
2 "Adjudication of Traffic Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-41.1-4. Schedule of violations.**

4 (a) The penalties for violations of the enumerated sections, listed in numerical order,  
5 correspond to the fines described. However, those offenses for which punishments may vary  
6 according to the severity of the offense, or punishment that requires the violator to perform a  
7 service, shall be heard and decided by the traffic tribunal or municipal court. The following  
8 violations may be handled administratively through the method prescribed in this chapter. This list  
9 is not exclusive and jurisdiction may be conferred on the traffic tribunal with regard to other  
10 violations.

11	Section of General Laws		Total Fine
12	8-8.2-2	DOT, DEM, or other agency and department violations	\$100.00
13	24-10-17	Soliciting rides in motor vehicles	100.00
14	24-10-18	Backing up prohibited	100.00
15	24-10-19	Advertising motor vehicle for sale on state highways	100.00
16	24-10-20	Park and ride lots	100.00
17	24-12-37	Nonpayment of toll	100.00
18	31-3-12	Visibility of plates	100.00

1	31-3-18	Display of plates	100.00
2	31-3-32	Driving with expired registration	100.00
3	31-3-34	Failure to notify division of change of address	100.00
4	31-3-35	Notice of change of name	100.00
5	31-3-40	Temporary plates — dealer issued	100.00
6	31-4-3	Temporary registration — twenty-day (20) bill of sale	100.00
7	31-10-10	Rules as to armed forces license	100.00
8	31-10-30	Driving on expired license	100.00
9	31-10-32	Notice of change of address	100.00
10	31-10.1-4	No motorcycle helmet (operator)	100.00
11	31-10.1-5	Motorcycle handlebar violation	100.00
12	31-10.1-6	No motorcycle helmet (passenger)	100.00
13	31-10.1-7	Inspection of motorcycle required	100.00
14	31-12-12	Local motor vehicle ordinance	100.00
15	31-13-4	Obedience to devices	100.00
16	31-13-6(3)(i)	Eluding traffic light	100.00
17	31-13-9	Flashing signals	100.00
18	31-13-11	Injury to signs or devices	100.00
19	31-14-1	Reasonable and prudent speed	<del>95.00</del> <u>170.00</u>
20	31-14-3	Condition requiring reduced speed	95.00
21	31-14-9	Below minimum speed	95.00
22	31-14-12	Speed limit on bridges and structures	95.00
23	31-15-1	Leaving lane of travel	100.00
24	31-15-2	Slow traffic to right	100.00
25	31-15-3	Operator left of center	100.00
26	31-15-4	Overtaking on left	100.00
27	31-15-5(a)	Overtaking on right	100.00
28	31-15-6	Clearance for overtaking	100.00
29	31-15-7	Places where overtaking prohibited	100.00
30	31-15-8	No passing zone	100.00
31	31-15-9	One way highways	100.00
32	31-15-10	Rotary traffic islands	100.00
33	31-15-11	Laned roadway violation	100.00
34	31-15-12	Following too closely	100.00

1	31-15-12.1	Entering intersection	100.00
2	31-15-13	Crossing center section of divided highway	100.00
3	31-15-14	Entering or leaving limited access roadways	100.00
4	31-15-16	Use of emergency break-down lane for travel	100.00
5	31-15-17	Crossing bicycle lane	100.00
6	31-15-18	Unsafe passing of person operating a bicycle	100.00
7	31-16-1	Care in starting from stop	100.00
8	31-16-2	Manner of turning at intersection	100.00
9	31-16-4	U turn where prohibited	100.00
10	31-16-5	Turn signal required	100.00
11	31-16-6	Time of signaling turn	100.00
12	31-16-7	Failure to give stop signal	100.00
13	31-16-8	Method of giving signals	100.00
14	31-16.1-3	Diesel vehicle idling rules	
15		first offense not to exceed	100.00
16		second and subsequent offense not to exceed	500.00
17	31-17-1	Failure to yield right of way	100.00
18	31-17-2	Vehicle turning left	100.00
19	31-17-3	Yield right of way (intersection)	100.00
20	31-17-4	Obedience to stop signs	100.00
21	31-17-5	Entering from private road or driveway	100.00
22	31-17-8	Vehicle within right of way, rotary	100.00
23	31-17-9	Yielding to bicycles on bicycle lane	100.00
24	31-18-3	Right of way in crosswalks	
25		first violation	100.00
26		second violation or any subsequent violation	100.00
27	31-18-5	Crossing other than at crosswalks	100.00
28	31-18-8	Due care by drivers	100.00
29	31-18-12	Hitchhiking	100.00
30	31-18-18	Right of way on sidewalks	100.00
31	31-19-3	Traffic laws applied to bicycles	100.00
32	31-19-20	Sale of new bicycles	100.00
33	31-19-21	Sale of used bicycles	100.00
34	31-19.1-2	Operating motorized bicycle on an interstate highway	100.00

1	31-19.2-2	Operating motorized tricycle on an interstate highway	100.00
2	31-20-1	Failure to stop at railroad crossing	100.00
3	31-20-2	Driving through railroad gate	100.00
4	31-20-9	Obedience to stop sign	100.00
5	31-21-4	Places where parking or stopping prohibited	100.00
6	31-21-14	Opening of vehicle doors	100.00
7	31-21-18	Electric vehicle charging station restriction	100.00
8	31-22-2	Improper backing up	100.00
9	31-22-4	Overloading vehicle	100.00
10	31-22-5	Violation of safety zone	100.00
11	31-22-6	Coasting	100.00
12	31-22-7	Following fire apparatus	100.00
13	31-22-8	Crossing fire hose	100.00
14	31-22-9	Throwing debris on highway — snow removal	100.00
15	31-22-11.5	Improper use of school bus — not to exceed five hundred dollars	
16		(\$500) for each day of improper use	
17	31-22-22(a)	No child restraint	100.00
18	31-22-22(a)	Child restraint/seat belt but not in any rear seating position	100.00
19	31-22-22(b), (f)	No seat belt — passenger	40.00
20	31-22-22(g)	No seat belt — operator	40.00
21	31-22-23	Tow trucks — proper identification	275.00
22	31-22-24	Operation of interior lights	100.00
23	31-23-1(b)(2)	U.S. department of transportation motor carrier safety rules and	
24		regulations Not less than \$100.00 or more than \$500.00	
25	31-23-1(e)(6)	Removal of an “out of service vehicle” sticker	125.00
26	31-23-1(e)(7)	Operation of an “out of service vehicle”	100.00
27	31-23-2(b)	Installation or adjustment of unsafe or prohibited parts,	
28		equipment, or accessories:	
29		(first offense)	250.00
30		(second offense)	500.00
31		(third and subsequent offenses)	1,000.00
32	31-23-4	Brake equipment required	100.00
33	31-23-8	Horn required	100.00
34	31-23-10	Sirens prohibited	100.00

1	31-23-13	Muffler required	100.00
2	31-23-13.1	Altering height or operating a motor vehicle with an altered	
3		height	100.00
4	31-23-14	Prevention of excessive fumes or smoke	100.00
5	31-23-16	Windshield and window stickers (visibility)	100.00
6	31-23-17	Windshield wipers	100.00
7	31-23-19	Metal tires prohibited	100.00
8	31-23-20	Protuberances on tires	100.00
9	31-23-26	Fenders and wheel flaps required	100.00
10	31-23-27	Rear wheel flaps on buses, trucks, and trailers	100.00
11	31-23-29	Flares or red flag required over four thousand pounds (4,000 lbs.)	100.00
12	31-23-40	Approved types of seat belt requirements	100.00
13	31-23-42.1	Special mirror — school bus	100.00
14	31-23-43	Chocks required (1 pair) — over four thousand pounds (4,000 lbs.)	100.00
15	31-23-45	Tire treads — defective tires	100.00
16	31-23-47	Slow moving emblem required	100.00
17	31-23-49	Transportation of gasoline — passenger vehicle	100.00
18	31-23-51	Operating bike or motor vehicle wearing ear phones	
19		(first offense)	100.00
20		second offense	110.00
21		for the third and each subsequent offense	140.00
22	31-24-1 through		
23	31-24-54	Times when lights required	100.00
24	31-25-9	Leaking load	100.00
25	31-25-11	Connections between coupled vehicles	100.00
26	31-25-12	Towing chain, twelve-inch (12") square flag required	100.00
27	31-25-12.1	Tow truck — use of lanes	
28		(first offense)	100.00
29		second offense	110.00
30		for the third and each subsequent offense	140.00
31	31-25-17	Identification of trucks and truck-tractors	
32		(first offense)	100.00
33		(second offense)	110.00
34		for the third and subsequent offenses	140.00

1	31-25-24	Carrying and inspection of excess load limit	350.00
2	31-27-2.3	Refusal to take preliminary breath test	100.00
3	31-28-7(d)	Wrongful use of handicapped parking placard	500.00
4	31-28-7(f)	Handicapped parking space violation:	
5		First offense	100.00
6		Second offense	175.00
7		Third offense and subsequent offenses	325.00
8	31-28-7.1(e)	Wrongful use of institutional handicapped parking placard	125.00
9	31-33-2	Failure to file accident report	100.00
10	31-34-2	Proof of insurance — motor vehicle rental	100.00
11	31-34-3	Operation by person other than lessee	100.00
12	31-36.1-17	No fuel tax stamp (out-of-state) 85.00 and not exceeding	
13		(\$100) for subsequent offense	
14	31-38-3	No inspection sticker	100.00
15	31-38-4	Violation of inspection laws	100.00
16	31-41.3-15	Automated school zone speed enforcement system	50.00
17	31-47.2-6	Heavy-duty vehicle emission inspections:	
18		First offense	125.00
19		Second offense	525.00
20		Third and subsequent offenses	1,025.00
21	37-15-7	Littering not less than 55.00, not more than five hundred dollars	
22			(\$500)
23	39-12-26	Public carriers violation	300.00
24	<b>SPEEDING</b>	<b>Fine</b>	
25		(A) One to ten miles per hour (1-10 m.p.h.) in excess of posted speed limit	\$ 95.00
26		(B) Eleven miles per hour (11 m.p.h.) in excess of posted speed limit with a fine of ten	
27		dollars (\$10.00) per mile in excess of speed limit shall be assessed. 205.00 minimum	
28		<a href="#"><u>(C)(I) Any violation of subsection (A) of this section in a residential or school zone shall</u></a>	
29		<a href="#"><u>be subject to a fine of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175);</u></a>	
30		<a href="#"><u>(II) Any violation of subsection (B) of this section in a residential or school zone shall be</u></a>	
31		<a href="#"><u>subject to a fine of four hundred dollars (\$400).</u></a>	
32		(b) In addition to any other penalties provided by law, a judge may impose the following	
33		penalties for speeding:	
34		(1) For speeds up to and including ten miles per hour (10 m.p.h.) over the posted speed	

1 limit on public highways, a fine as provided for in subsection (a) of this section for the first offense;  
2 ten dollars (\$10.00) per mile for each mile in excess of the speed limit for the second offense if  
3 within twelve (12) months of the first offense; and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per mile for each mile  
4 in excess of the speed limit for the third and any subsequent offense if within twelve (12) months  
5 of the first offense. In addition, the license may be suspended up to thirty (30) days.

6 (2) For speeds in excess of ten miles per hour (10 m.p.h.) over the posted speed limit on  
7 public highways, a mandatory fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each mile over the speed limit for the  
8 first offense; fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per mile for each mile in excess of the speed limit for the  
9 second offense if within twelve (12) months of the first offense; and twenty dollars (\$20.00) per  
10 mile for each mile in excess of the speed limit for the third and subsequent offense if within twelve  
11 (12) months of the first offense. In addition, the license may be suspended up to sixty (60) days.

12 (c) Except for a technology surcharge assessed in accordance with § 8-15-11, any person  
13 charged with a violation who pays the fine administratively pursuant to this chapter shall not be  
14 subject to any additional costs or assessments, including, but not limited to, the hearing fee  
15 established in § 8-18-4.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC  
OFFENSES

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1           This act would increase the fine for speeding, one to ten miles per hour (1-10 mph) in  
2 excess of posted speed limit in a residential or school zone to one hundred seventy five dollars  
3 (\$175). It would increase the fine to four hundred dollars (\$400) for speed in excess of eleven miles  
4 per hour (11 mph) in a residential or school zone.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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