

2020 -- H 7262

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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 -- CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Knight, Ajello, Donovan, and McEntee

Date Introduced: January 23, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3.1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3.1 entitled  
2 "Certificates of Title and Security Interests" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3.1-7. Contents and effect of certificate.**

4 (a) Each certificate of title issued by the division of motor vehicles shall contain:

5 (1) The date issued;

6 (2) The name and address of the owner; provided, however, a married couple may have  
7 both their names listed as co-owners with right of survivorship;

8 (3) The names and addresses of any lienholders, in the order of priority as shown on the  
9 application or, if the application is based on a certificate of title, as shown on the certificate;

10 (4) The title number assigned to the vehicle;

11 (5) A description of the vehicle including, so far as the following data exists: its make,  
12 model, identifying number, type of body, number of cylinders, whether new or used, and, if a new  
13 vehicle, the date of the first sale of the vehicle for use; and

14 (6) Any other data the division of motor vehicles prescribes.

15 (b) Unless a bond is filed as provided in § 31-3.1-9(2), a distinctive certificate of title  
16 shall be issued for a vehicle last previously registered in another state or country the laws of  
17 which do not require that lienholders be named on a certificate of title to perfect their security  
18 interests. The certificate shall contain the legend "this vehicle may be subject to an undisclosed  
19 lien" and may contain any other information the division of motor vehicles prescribes. If no

1 notice of a security interest in the vehicle is received by the division within four (4) months from  
2 the issuance of the distinctive certificate of title, it shall, upon application and surrender of the  
3 distinctive certificate, issue a certificate of title in ordinary form.

4 (c) The certificate of title shall contain forms for assignment and warranty of title by the  
5 owner, and for assignment and warranty of title by a dealer, and may contain forms for  
6 application for a certificate of title by a transferee, the naming of a lienholder, and the assignment  
7 or release of the security interest of a lienholder.

8 (d) A certificate of title issued by the division of motor vehicles is prima facie evidence  
9 of the facts appearing on it.

10 (e) A certificate of title for a vehicle is not subject to garnishment, attachment, execution,  
11 or other judicial process, but this subsection does not prevent a lawful levy upon the vehicle.

12 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 enable a married couple to have both their names listed as co-owners with
- 2 right of survivorship on a certificate of title issued by the division of motor vehicles.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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