

2018 -- H 7737

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LC004701  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'  
LICENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Edwards, McNamara, O`Grady, and Marshall

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-10-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'  
2 and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-10-2. Persons exempt from licensing requirements.**

4 The following persons are exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter:

5 (1) Any employee of the United States government while operating a motor vehicle  
6 owned by or leased to the United States government and being operated on official business;

7 (2) A nonresident who is at least sixteen (16) years of age and who has in ~~his or her~~ their  
8 immediate possession a valid operator's license issued to ~~him or her in his or her home state or~~  
9 ~~country~~ them in another state of the United States may operate a motor vehicle in this state only  
10 as an operator;

11 (3) Any individual over the age of eighteen (18) years who has in their immediate  
12 possession a valid operator's license issued to them in a foreign country may operate a motor  
13 vehicle in this state only as an operator for the term and in accordance with the methods provided  
14 for pursuant to the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic, Chapter V, art. 24, September 19, 1949  
15 without further examination;

16 (4) Any individual who holds an active validly issued work or study Visa or is in the  
17 process of renewing a work or study Visa, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has  
18 in their immediate possession a valid operator's license issued to them in a foreign country may

1 operate a motor vehicle in this state only as provided for pursuant to the Geneva Convention on  
2 Road Traffic, Chapter V, art. 24, September 19, 1949 without further examination; provided,  
3 however, that upon expiration of the term set forth in the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic,  
4 said individual may only operate a motor vehicle in this state upon completion of an application  
5 provided by the Rhode Island division of motor vehicles and only for the unexpired term of the  
6 issued Visa, and during the pendency of renewal proceedings for the Visa.

7 (5) Any individual who holds a permanent resident card or is in the process of renewing a  
8 permanent resident card, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has in their immediate  
9 possession a valid operator's license issued to them in a foreign country may operate a motor  
10 vehicle in this state pursuant to the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic, Chapter V, art. 24,  
11 September 19, 1949 without further examination; provided, however, that upon expiration of the  
12 term set forth in the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic, said individual may only operate a  
13 motor vehicle in this state upon completion of an application form to be created specifically for  
14 this purpose and provided by the Rhode Island division of motor vehicles and only for the  
15 unexpired term of the issued permanent resident card and during the pendency of renewal  
16 proceedings for the permanent resident card;

17 ~~(3)~~(6) A nonresident who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has in his or her  
18 immediate possession a valid chauffeur's license issued to him or her in his or her home state or  
19 country may operate a motor vehicle in this state either as an operator or chauffeur. Subject to the  
20 age limits applicable to chauffeurs in this state, that license shall be accepted as a chauffeur class  
21 I license. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a nonresident must submit an application for a chauffeur  
22 class I license which must be approved before a nonresident may be employed as a chauffeur in  
23 this state;

24 ~~(4)~~(7) Any nonresident who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, whose ~~home~~ state of  
25 residence in the United States or whose country does not require the licensing of operators, may  
26 operate a motor vehicle as an operator only, for a period of not more than ninety (90) days in any  
27 calendar year, if the motor vehicle so operated is duly registered in the ~~home-state~~ United States  
28 or a country of that nonresident;

29 ~~(5)~~(8) Any operator of any traction engine, road roller, farm tractor, crane, power shovel,  
30 well-borer, and any other road and building construction machinery and equipment, other than a  
31 truck used for the transportation of materials; and

32 (9) The division of motor vehicles is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to  
33 carry out the purposes of this section, including the creation of whatever application form(s) may  
34 be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

1 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 allow adults eighteen (18) years and above with valid foreign country  
2 driver's licenses to operate vehicles in the state of Rhode Island in accordance with the Geneva  
3 Convention on Road Traffic. The act would also allow sixteen (16) year olds with valid licenses  
4 in the United States to operate vehicles in this state.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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