

2016 -- H 7878

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representative Marvin L. Abney

Date Introduced: March 04, 2016

Referred To: House Corporations

(Public Utilities Commission)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-14.1-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14.1 entitled "Public
2 Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-14.1-9. Penalty for violations.** -- (a) Any person, firm or corporation, subject to the
4 provisions of this chapter and/or any rules and regulations promulgated under it, who shall
5 knowingly or willfully cause to be done any act prohibited by this chapter, or who shall be guilty
6 of any violation of this chapter or the rules and regulations shall be deemed guilty of a
7 misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars
8 (\$1,000) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both for each offense.

9 (b) The administrator may in his or her discretion in lieu of seeking criminal sanctions,
10 and/or in lieu of revoking or suspending the carrier's operating authority as conferred under this
11 chapter, impose upon its regulated common carriers an administrative civil penalty (fine). This
12 fine shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per each violation of the sections contained in
13 this chapter or the division's rules and regulations promulgated under it.

14 (c) Nothing herein shall preclude an authorized certificate holder under chapters 14 and
15 14.1 of title 39 from pursuing a private cause of action for damages at law and in equity, against
16 any person, firm, corporation, or the officers of any association or corporation who shall violate
17 any provision of §§39-14.1-1 through 39-14.1-8, or any order, rule, or regulation adopted or
18 established under any provision, by the division of public utilities and carriers and the
19 administrator.

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 clarify the law and allow the holders of certificates for taxicabs, limited
2 public motor vehicles and public motor vehicles to file private lawsuits for damages in law or in
3 equity against the violators of public motor vehicle laws, orders, rules or regulations.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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