

2017 -- S 0295

LC000573

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - COURTESY VETERANS' PLATES

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, Morgan, Algieri, and Cote

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-17.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-3 entitled
2 "Registration of Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-3-17.1. Courtesy plates.**

4 The administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall design and issue under
5 regulations that he or she deems appropriate, special courtesy automobile, motorcycle, and
6 commercial registration plates to be used on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all
7 commercial vehicles whose gross weight is not more than nine thousand pounds (9,000 lbs.) in
8 lieu of other number plates. Special plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters or
9 combinations of letters and numbers as the administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall
10 prescribe, and shall be made of light-reflecting sheeting applied on a metal base, provided that no
11 automobile set of plates shall contain more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination of
12 letters and numbers, or less than two (2) letters, and that no motorcycle plate shall contain more
13 than five (5) letters or more than five (5) letters and numbers in a combination or less than two (2)
14 letters, and that a commercial courtesy plate shall be marked "commercial," and shall contain no
15 more than six (6) letters or more than six (6) letters and numbers in a combination or less than
16 two (2) letters, and provided further, that there shall be no duplication of identification and the
17 administrator of the division of motor vehicles shall in his or her discretion refuse to issue any
18 letter or combination of letters and numbers which might carry connotations offensive to good
19 taste and decency. A special automobile or commercial courtesy plate shall be issued upon

1 application using forms furnished by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles, and upon
2 payment, in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a service charge of
3 sixty dollars (\$60.00) for each issue and for each registration renewal. For motorcycles, a special
4 courtesy plate shall be issued upon application using forms furnished by the division of motor
5 vehicles, and upon payment, in addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, a
6 service charge of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) for each issue and for each registration renewal.
7 Courtesy plates shall be provided to every veteran eligible for a veterans' plate, in the veterans'
8 plate format, at no additional charge. The service charge shall be paid to the administrator of the
9 division of motor vehicles prior to the administrator's acceptance of the application. The Rhode
10 Island state lottery commission shall not be required to pay the service charge for any special
11 courtesy plate issued pursuant to this section for motor vehicles owned or used by the lottery
12 commission, and may utilize the special courtesy plates on all types of vehicles owned or
13 operated by the lottery commission.

14 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 permit a veteran to request a "Courtesy Plate" with their choice of letters
2 and numbers consistent with present availability with the veteran plate format.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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