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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Felag, McCaffrey, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 31-15-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-15 entitled "Passing,  
2 Use of Lanes, and Rules of the Road" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **31-15-13. Divided highways.** -- Whenever any highway has been divided into two (2)  
4 roadways by leaving an unpaved intervening space or by a physical barrier ~~or clearly indicated~~  
5 ~~dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic~~, every vehicle shall be driven only  
6 upon the right-hand roadway and no vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within a dividing  
7 space, barrier, or section, except through an opening in the physical barrier or dividing section or  
8 space or at a crossover or intersection established by public authority. Violations of this section  
9 are subject to fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

10           SECTION 2. Section 31-20-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-20 entitled "Special  
11 Stops Required" is hereby amended to read as follows:

12           **31-20-13. School buses stopped on divided highway or in loading zone.** -- When  
13 operating a vehicle upon a highway, the driver need not stop upon meeting or passing a bus  
14 marked as "school bus" in accordance with section 31-20-11 in the following circumstances:

15           (1) When ~~the~~ a highway is a divided highway ~~by a median strip separating opposing~~  
16 ~~lanes of traffic~~ and the bus is stopped in the roadway on one side of the ~~median strip~~ divided  
17 highway and the driver is operating on the other side of it.

18           (2) When the bus is stopped in a loading zone adjacent to a limited access highway and  
19 pedestrians are not permitted to cross the highway.

1 SECTION 3. 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 meaning of divided highway as any highway that has been  
2 divided into two (2) roadways by leaving an unpaved intervening space or by a physical barrier.  
3 This act would also allow the driver of a motor vehicle to not stop upon meeting a bus marked as  
4 "school bus" under certain circumstances, such as when a highway is a divided highway and  
5 when a bus is stopped in a loading zone.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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