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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senator Louis P. DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 18, 2015

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 39-14.1-1 and 39-14.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-14.1
2 entitled "Public Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-14.1-1. Definitions.** -- Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
4 another meaning is expressed or is clearly apparent from the language or context:

5 (1) "Certificate" means a certificate of operating authority issued to a public motor
6 vehicle;

7 (2) "Charter carrier" means a provider of transportation services to groups such as:
8 lodges, bands, athletic teams, schools or other travel groups, assembled by someone other than
9 the carrier who collectively contracts for the exclusive use of certain equipment for the duration
10 of a particular trip or tour. Charter carrier services shall also include transportation services
11 provided by employment agencies or employers to individuals in the context of providing
12 transportation to and from their place of employment;

13 (3) "Common carrier" as used in this chapter, means any person engaging in the business
14 of providing transportation services for compensation to passengers through the use of a public
15 motor vehicle as defined in this chapter;

16 (4) "Division" means the division of public utilities and carriers;

17 (5) "Driver" means any person operating a motor vehicle used for the transportation of
18 passengers which he or she owns or is operating with the expressed or implied consent of the
19 owner;

1 (6) "Person" means and includes any individual, partnership, corporation, or other
2 association of individuals;

3 (7) "Prearranged" or "prearrange" means a reservation for transportation services to be
4 provided by a public motor vehicle, made at least two (2) hours in advance of the delivery of
5 services to the passenger. Services commence at the time the passenger is initially picked up by
6 the driver.

7 ~~(7)~~(8) "Public motor vehicle" means and includes every motor vehicle for hire, other
8 than a jitney, as defined in § 39-13-1, or a taxicab or limited public motor vehicle, as defined in §
9 39-14-1, used for transporting members of the general public for compensation in unmarked
10 vehicles at a predetermined or prearranged charge to such points as may be directed by the
11 passenger. All vehicles operated under this chapter shall conform to specifications established by
12 the division. Transportation services provided by charter carriers, as defined in this chapter, or by
13 funeral homes in association with funeral services, and by ambulance companies shall be exempt
14 from this chapter;

15 ~~(8)~~(9) "Unmarked vehicles" means motor vehicles that do not display the transportation
16 company's name, address or telephone number, or any advertisements or commercial information
17 beyond that included by the vehicle's manufacturer on the vehicle's exterior surfaces.

18 ~~(9)~~(10) "Wheelchair accessible public motor vehicle" means a public motor vehicle
19 designed and equipped to allow the transportation of a person(s) who uses a wheelchair without
20 requiring that person(s) to be removed from the wheelchair, but such public motor vehicle is not
21 restricted to transporting only persons using wheelchairs.

22 **39-14.1-6. Operations of public motor vehicles.** -- No public motor vehicle shall be
23 operated from any taxicab stand on any public highway; nor shall the operator of it transport any
24 passenger for hire unless the transportation is requested and prearranged by the passenger at an
25 office of the owner of the vehicle, either personally or by telephone and/or other electronic means
26 at least two (2) hours in advance of the delivery of the services to the passenger. When solicited
27 by a prospective customer the certificate holder or its representative shall quote what the actual
28 charge for the requested transportation service will be prior to picking up the passenger(s).

29 The division shall establish and set a minimum allowable charge for public motor
30 vehicle services. The minimum allowable charge provisions of this section shall not apply to
31 public motor vehicle service coordinated by or paid for by a state department, authority or agency
32 on behalf of clients of said state department, authority or agency; provided, however, that the
33 state department, authority or agency requests the service no later than the day before the service
34 is to be rendered.

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 prohibit the operator of a public motor vehicle from transporting any
2 passenger unless the pickup time is prearranged at least two (2) hours before the actual pickup.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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