

**2018 -- S 2484 SUBSTITUTE A**

LC004771/SUB A

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senator James C. Sheehan

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

(by request)

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 (a) 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. The  
7 service charge shall be paid to the administrator of the division of motor vehicles prior to the  
8 administrator's acceptance of the application. The Rhode Island state lottery commission shall not  
9 be required to pay the service charge for any special courtesy plate issued pursuant to this section  
10 for motor vehicles owned or used by the lottery commission, and may utilize the special courtesy  
11 plates on all types of vehicles owned or operated by the lottery commission.

12 (b) For any vehicle that is registered in accordance with § 31-3-31.1, the division of  
13 motor vehicles may also issue or approve, subject to rules and regulations that may be  
14 promulgated by the administrator, a courtesy registration plate in accordance with the provisions  
15 of this section.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take on April 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would allow the division of motor vehicles to issue a courtesy registration plate
- 2 for a vehicle that is registered as street rod or custom vehicle pursuant to § 31-3-31.1
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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