

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Transportation to which was referred Senate Bill No.  
3 309 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes to the laws related to  
4 the Department of Motor Vehicles, motor vehicles, and vessels” respectfully  
5 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose  
6 to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
7 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 \* \* \* Transporters \* \* \*

9 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

10 § 4. DEFINITIONS

11 \* \* \*

12 (8)(A)(i) “Dealer” means a person, partnership, corporation, or other  
13 entity engaged in the business of selling or exchanging new or used motor  
14 vehicles, snowmobiles, motorboats, or all-terrain vehicles. A dealer may, as  
15 part of or incidental to such business, repair such vehicles or motorboats, sell  
16 parts and accessories, or lease or rent such vehicles or motorboats. “Dealer”  
17 ~~shall~~ does not include a finance or auction dealer or a transporter.

18 (ii)(I) For a dealer in new or used cars or motor trucks, “engaged  
19 in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least 12 cars or motor  
20 trucks, or a combination thereof, in the immediately preceding year, or 24 in  
21 the two immediately preceding years.

22 (II) For a dealer in snowmobiles, motorboats, or all-terrain

1 vehicles, “engaged in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least  
2 one snowmobile, motorboat, or all-terrain vehicle, respectively, in the  
3 immediately preceding year or two in the two immediately preceding years.

4 (III) For a dealer in trailers, semi-trailers, or trailer coaches,  
5 “engaged in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least one trailer,  
6 semi-trailer, or trailer coach in the immediately preceding year or a  
7 combination of two such vehicles in the two immediately preceding years.

8 However, the sale or exchange of a trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating of  
9 3,500 pounds or less shall be excluded under this subdivision (III).

10 (IV) For a dealer in motorcycles or motor-driven cycles,  
11 “engaged in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least one  
12 motorcycle or motor-driven cycle in the immediately preceding year or a  
13 combination of two such vehicles in the two immediately preceding years.

14 \* \* \*

15 (42)(A) “Transporter” means:

16 (i) a person engaged in the business of delivering vehicles of a  
17 type required to be registered from a manufacturing, assembling, or  
18 distributing plant to dealers or sales agents of a manufacturer;

19 (ii) a person regularly engaged in the business of towing trailer  
20 coaches, owned by them or temporarily in their custody, on their own wheels  
21 over public highways, or towing office trailers owned by them or temporarily  
22 in their custody, on their own wheels over public highways;

1 (iii) a person regularly engaged and properly licensed for the  
2 short-term rental of “storage trailers” owned by them and who move these  
3 storage trailers on their own wheels over public highways;

4 (iv) a person regularly engaged in the business of moving modular  
5 homes over public highways;

6 (v) dealers, owners of motor vehicle auction sites, and automobile  
7 repair shop owners when engaged in the transportation of motor vehicles to  
8 and from their place of business for repair purposes; or

9 (vi) the following, provided that the transportation and delivery of  
10 motor vehicles is a common and usual incident to their business:

11 (I) persons towing overwidth trailers owned by them in  
12 connection with their business;

13 (II) persons whose business is the repossession of motor  
14 vehicles; ~~and~~

15 (III) persons whose business involves moving vehicles from  
16 the place of business of a registered dealer to another registered dealer, or  
17 between a motor vehicle auction site and a registered dealer or another motor  
18 vehicle auction site, leased vehicles to the lessor at the expiration of the lease,  
19 or vehicles purchased at the place of auction of an auction dealer to the  
20 purchaser; and

21 (IV) persons who sell or exchange new or used motor vehicles  
22 but who are not engaged in business as that phrase is defined in subdivision

1 (8)(A)(ii) of this section.

2 \* \* \*

3 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 491 is amended to read:

4 § 491. TRANSPORTER APPLICATION; ELIGIBILITY; USE OF  
5 TRANSPORTER PLATES

6 (a) A transporter may apply for and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,  
7 in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's discretion, may issue a certificate of  
8 registration and a general distinguishing number plate. Before a person may be  
9 registered as a transporter, ~~he or she~~ the person shall ~~present proof~~ self-certify  
10 the following on a form provided by the Commissioner:

11 (1) ~~of~~ compliance with section 800 of this title; and

12 (2) that ~~he or she~~ the person either owns or leases a permanent place of  
13 business located in this State where business will be conducted during  
14 regularly established business hours and the required records stored and  
15 maintained.

16 (b) When ~~he or she~~ a transporter displays ~~thereon his or her~~ the  
17 transporter's registration plate, a the transporter or ~~his or her~~ the transporter's  
18 employee or contractor may transport a motor vehicle owned by the  
19 transporter, repossessed, or temporarily in the transporter's custody, and it  
20 shall be considered ~~to be~~ properly registered under this title. ~~Transporter's A~~  
21 transporter's registration plates shall not be used for any other purposes and  
22 shall not be used by the holder of such number plates for personal purposes.



\* \* \* Record Keeping \* \* \*

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 117 is added to read:

§ 117. RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS; CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

(a) Original records. Original certificate of title records, including surrendered certificates of title and requests for salvage title, as issued pursuant to chapters 21 and 36 of this title, shall be maintained as an electronic image or electronic copy or other form of image, which allows for the tracing of anything for which the Department of Motor Vehicles issues a certificate of title, for a period of five years.

(b) Electronic format. Records of title shall be maintained in a format, determined by the Commissioner, that allows for the tracing of anything for which the Department of Motor Vehicles issues a certificate of title.

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 2017(c) is amended to read:

~~(c) The Commissioner shall maintain a record of all certificates of title issued and of all exempt vehicle titles issued under a distinctive title number assigned to the vehicle; under the identification number of the vehicle; alphabetically, under the name of the owner; and, in the discretion of the Commissioner, by any other method the Commissioner determines. The original records may be maintained on microfilm or electronic imaging pursuant to section 117 of this title.~~

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2027(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Commissioner shall file and retain ~~for five years~~ every surrendered

1 certificate of title ~~so as to permit the tracing of title of the corresponding~~  
2 ~~vehicles~~ pursuant to section 117 of this title.

3 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 2092 is amended to read:

4 § 2092. ISSUANCE OF SALVAGE TITLE

5 The Commissioner shall file and maintain in the manner provided in section  
6 ~~2017~~ 117 of this title each application received and when satisfied as to its  
7 genuineness and regularity and that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a  
8 salvage certificate of title, shall issue a salvage certificate of title to the vehicle.

9 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 3810(b)(1) is amended to read:

10 (b)(1) The Commissioner shall maintain ~~at his or her central office~~ a record  
11 of all certificates of title issued by ~~him or her~~:

12 (A) ~~under a distinctive title number assigned to the vessel,~~  
13 ~~snowmobile, or all terrain vehicle;~~

14 (B) ~~under the identification number of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-~~  
15 ~~terrain vehicle;~~

16 (C) ~~alphabetically, under the name of the owner; and, in the~~  
17 ~~discretion of the Commissioner, by any other method he or she determines the~~  
18 ~~Commissioner pursuant to section 117 of this title.~~

19 Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 3820(c) is amended to read:

20 (c) The Commissioner shall file and retain every surrendered certificate of  
21 title for five years. ~~The file shall be maintained so as to permit the tracing of~~  
22 ~~title of the vessel, snowmobile, or all terrain vehicle designated pursuant to~~

1 section 117 of this title.

2 \* \* \* Registration; Residents \* \* \*

3 Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 301 is amended to read:

4 § 301. PERSONS REQUIRED TO REGISTER

5 (a) As used in this section:

6 (1) “Resident” means an individual living in the State who intends to  
7 make the State the individual’s place of domicile either permanently or for an  
8 indefinite number of years.

9 (2) “Temporary resident” means an individual living in the State for a  
10 particular purpose involving a defined period, including students, migrant  
11 workers employed in seasonal occupations, and individuals employed under a  
12 contract with a fixed term, provided that the motor vehicle will be used in the  
13 State on a regular basis.

14 (b) Residents, except as provided in chapter 35 of this title, shall annually  
15 register motor vehicles owned or leased for a period of more than 30 days and  
16 operated by them, unless currently registered in Vermont.

17 (c) Temporary residents and foreign partnerships, firms, associations, and  
18 corporations having a place of business in this State may annually register  
19 motor vehicles owned or leased for a period of more than 30 days and operated  
20 by them or an employee.

21 (d) Notwithstanding this section, a resident who has moved into the State  
22 from another jurisdiction shall register ~~his or her~~ the resident’s motor vehicle



1 within 60 days of ~~after~~ moving into the State. ~~A person~~

2 (e) An individual shall not operate a motor vehicle nor draw a trailer or  
3 semi-trailer on any highway unless such vehicle is registered as provided in  
4 this chapter. Vehicle owners who have apportioned power units registered in  
5 this State under the International Registration Plan are exempt from the  
6 requirement to register their trailers in this State.

7 Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 303(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's duly authorized  
9 agent shall register a motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer ~~when~~ that is required  
10 or permitted to be registered in Vermont upon application therefor, on a form  
11 prescribed by the Commissioner that is filed with the Commissioner, showing  
12 such motor vehicle to be properly equipped and in good mechanical condition;  
13 ~~is filed with him or her~~, and accompanied by the required registration fee and  
14 evidence of the applicant's ownership of the vehicle in such form as the  
15 Commissioner may reasonably require. Except for State or municipal vehicles,  
16 registrants and titled owners shall be identical.

17 \* \* \* Weight Limitations on Low-Number Plates \* \* \*

18 Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 304(c) is amended to read:

19 (c) The Commissioner shall issue registration numbers 101 through 9999,  
20 which shall be known as reserved registration numbers, for pleasure cars,  
21 ~~motor trucks that are registered at the pleasure-car rate~~ for less than 26,001  
22 pounds, and motorcycles in the following manner:

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\* \* \*

(4) A person holding a reserved registration number on a pleasure car, a truck ~~that is registered at the pleasure car rate~~ for less than 26,001 pounds, or a motorcycle may be issued the same reserved registration number for the other authorized vehicle types, provided that the person receives ~~no~~ not more than one such plate or set of plates for each authorized vehicle type.

\* \* \* License Plates; Registration; Prorated Refunds \* \* \*

Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 327 is amended to read:

§ 327. REFUND WHEN PLATES NOT USED

Subject to the conditions set forth in subdivisions ~~(1), (2), and (3)~~ (1)–(4) of this section, the Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or motorboat when the owner returns to the Commissioner either the number plates, if any, or the registration certificate. Upon cancellation of the registration, the Commissioner shall notify the Commissioner of Finance and Management, who shall issue a refund as follows:

(1) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ cancelled prior to the beginning of the registration period, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.

(2) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ cancelled within 30 days ~~of~~ after the date of issue, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.

The owner of a motor vehicle must prove to the Commissioner’s satisfaction that the number plates have not been used or attached to a motor vehicle.

1           (3) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ canceled prior to the beginning of the  
2 second year of a two-year registration period, the refund is one-half of the full  
3 amount of the two-year fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.

4           (4) For registrations canceled prior to conclusion of a five-year  
5 registration period, the refund is as follows:

6           (A) four-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
7 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the second year;

8           (B) three-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
9 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the third year;

10           (C) two-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
11 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the fourth year; and

12           (D) one-fifth of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a charge  
13 of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the fifth year.

14 Sec. 14. [Deleted.]

15 Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

16 Sec. 16. [Deleted.]

17           \* \* \* Rusted Brake Rotors; Safety Inspection \* \* \*

18 Sec. 17. RUSTED BRAKE ROTORS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT;

19           BULLETIN; CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FAILURES

20           (a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

21           (1) the Department of Motor Vehicles provide information on the  
22 existing definition of “rust” in Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of

1 Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022) (Periodic Inspection Manual), which is “a  
2 condition of any swelling, delamination, or pitting,” to all inspection  
3 mechanics certified by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles so there is  
4 consistency amongst inspection stations in how the Periodic Inspection Manual  
5 is interpreted and applied.

6 (2) that the presence of rust on brake rotors, by itself, does not constitute  
7 a failure for the purpose of the annual safety inspection required under  
8 23 V.S.A. § 1222 and that the presence of rust that is temporary, also known as  
9 surface rust, which sometimes results from the vehicle being parked for a  
10 period of time, not be sufficient for a motor vehicle to fail inspection because  
11 such rust does not cause diminished braking performance that prevents a motor  
12 vehicle from adequately stopping.

13 (b) Bulletin. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall issue a clarifying  
14 administrative bulletin to all inspection mechanics certified by the  
15 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that:

16 (1) details the rejection criteria for rotors and drums in the Periodic  
17 Inspection Manual;

18 (2) explains the difference between surface rust and rust that is  
19 considerable for purposes of determining if the rejection criteria are met, which  
20 requires that the existing rust be “a condition of any swelling, delamination, or  
21 pitting”; and

22 (3) provides information that an inspection mechanic shall provide to

1 the owner of a vehicle that fails inspection because of rusting on rotors and  
2 drums.

3 (c) Contact information. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall include  
4 how to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles with questions about the  
5 annual safety inspection and the Periodic Inspection Manual on all notices of  
6 failure issued by inspection mechanics certified by the Commissioner of Motor  
7 Vehicles.

8 \* \* \* Emergency Warning Lamps and Sirens \* \* \*

9 Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. § 1251 is amended to read:

10 § 1251. SIRENS AND ~~COLORED SIGNAL~~ EMERGENCY WARNING  
11 LAMPS; OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE  
12 VEHICLES

13 (a) Prohibition. A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of  
14 this State equipped with any of the following:

15 (1) ~~a siren or signal lamp colored other than amber~~ unless either a permit  
16 authorizing ~~this equipment~~ the siren, issued by the Commissioner of Motor  
17 Vehicles, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not required pursuant to section  
18 1252 of this subchapter;

19 (2) an emergency warning lamp unless either a permit authorizing the  
20 emergency warning lamp, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle  
21 or a permit is not required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter;

22 (3) a blue light of any kind unless either a permit authorizing the blue

1 light, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not  
2 required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter; or

3 (4) a lamp or lamps that are not emergency warning lamps and provide a  
4 flashing light in a color other than amber.

5 (b) Permit transfer. A permit may be transferred following the same  
6 procedure and subject to the same time limits as set forth in section 321 of this  
7 title. The Commissioner may adopt additional rules as may be required to  
8 govern the acquisition of permits and the use pertaining to sirens and ~~colored~~  
9 ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamps.

10 ~~(b)~~(c) Exception for vehicles from another state. Notwithstanding the  
11 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when responding to emergencies,  
12 law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire vehicles, or vehicles owned or  
13 leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters or rescue squad members that  
14 are registered or licensed by another state or province may use sirens and  
15 ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamps in Vermont, and a permit shall not be  
16 required for such use, as long as provided the vehicle is properly permitted or  
17 otherwise permitted to use the sirens and emergency warning lamps without  
18 permit in its home state or province.

1 Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

2 § 1252. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

3 VEHICLES; ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR

4 COLORED EMERGENCY WARNING LAMPS, OR BOTH; USE

5 OF AMBER LAMPS

6 (a) Law enforcement vehicles.

7 ~~(1) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the~~

8 ~~Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and~~

9 ~~colored signal lamps in the following manner~~ Law enforcement vehicles

10 owned and operated by the government. The following are authorized for use,

11 without permit, on all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by the federal

12 government, a municipality, a county, the State, or the Vermont Criminal

13 Justice Council:

14 ~~(1)(A) Sirens, blue signal emergency warning lamps, or blue and white~~

15 ~~signal emergency warning lamps, or a combination thereof, may be authorized~~

16 ~~for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement~~

17 ~~agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice~~

18 ~~Council.~~

19 (B) A red ~~signal emergency warning lamp or an~~ a red and amber

20 ~~signal emergency warning lamp, or a combination thereof, may be authorized~~

21 ~~for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement~~

22 ~~agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice~~

1 ~~Council~~, provided that the ~~Commissioner shall require the~~ emergency warning  
2 ~~lamp or lamps be~~ is mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the  
3 vehicle.

4 ~~(C)~~(2) Law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a certified law  
5 enforcement officer.

6 (A) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
7 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and  
8 emergency warning lamps in the following manner:

9 (i) sirens, blue emergency warning lamps, or blue and white  
10 emergency warning lamps, or a combination thereof; and

11 (ii) a red emergency warning lamp or a red and amber emergency  
12 warning lamp, provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
13 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

14 (B) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
15 issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
16 both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

17 (3) Law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a certified constable.

18 (A) If the applicant is a The following are authorized for use, without  
19 permit, on all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a Vermont  
20 Criminal Justice Council certified constable, the application shall be  
21 accompanied by a certification by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly  
22 elected or appointed constable and attesting that the town for a municipality



1 that has not voted to limit the constable’s authority to engage in enforcement  
2 activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a: a red emergency warning lamp or a red  
3 and amber emergency warning lamp, provided that the emergency warning  
4 lamp is mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

5 (B) A constable for a municipality that has voted to limit the  
6 constable’s authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A.  
7 § 1936a shall not operate, in the course of the constable’s elected duties, a  
8 motor vehicle with a siren or an emergency warning lamp.

9 ~~(2)~~(b) Emergency services vehicles.

10 (1) Emergency services vehicles owned and operated by the  
11 government. The following are authorized for use, without permit, on all  
12 emergency services vehicles owned or leased by the federal government, a  
13 municipality, or the State:

14 (A) sirens and red emergency warning lamps or red and white  
15 emergency warning lamps; and

16 (B) a blue emergency warning lamp or a blue and amber emergency  
17 warning lamp provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
18 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

19 (2) Emergency services vehicles not owned and operated by the  
20 government.

21 (A) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
22 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and

1 emergency warning lamps in the following manner:

2 (i) Sirens and red emergency warning lamps or red and white  
3 ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamps may be authorized for all ambulances and  
4 other emergency medical service (EMS) vehicles, vehicles owned or leased by  
5 a fire department, vehicles used solely in rescue operations, or vehicles owned  
6 or leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters and voluntary rescue squad  
7 members, including a vehicle owned by a volunteer's employer when the  
8 volunteer has the written authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for  
9 emergency fire or rescue activities.

10 ~~(B)~~(ii) A blue ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamp or ~~an~~ a blue and amber  
11 ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamp, or a combination thereof, may be authorized  
12 for all EMS vehicles or vehicles owned or leased by a fire department,  
13 provided that the Commissioner shall require the emergency warning lamp ~~or~~  
14 ~~lamps~~ be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

15 ~~(3)~~ [Repealed.]

16 ~~(4)~~(B) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
17 issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
18 both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

19 ~~(5)~~(C) Upon application to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may  
20 issue a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

21 ~~(6)~~(c) ~~Sirens and~~ Restored vehicles. A combination of one or more of  
22 red ~~or~~ signal lamps, red and white signal lamps ~~or sirens and~~, blue signal

1 lamps, or blue and white signal lamps may be authorized for restored  
2 emergency or enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and  
3 lamps authorized under this ~~subdivision~~ subsection may only be activated  
4 during an exhibition, such as a car show or parade.

5 ~~(b)~~(d) Amber signal lamps. Amber signal lamps shall be used on road  
6 maintenance vehicles, service vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all  
7 registered snow removal equipment when in use removing snow on public  
8 highways, and the amber lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all  
9 sides of the motor vehicle.

10 Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 1254 is added to read:

11 § 1254. EMERGENCY WARNING LAMP; DEFINITION

12 As used in sections 1251–1255 of this subchapter, “emergency warning  
13 lamp”:

14 (1) means a lamp or lamps that provide a flashing light to identify an  
15 authorized vehicle on an emergency mission that may be a rotating beacon or  
16 pairs of alternately or simultaneously flashing lamps; and

17 (2) does not include a lamp or lamps that provide an exclusively amber  
18 flashing light.

19 Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 1255(b) is amended to read:

20 (b) All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in ~~subdivisions~~  
21 subsections 1252(a)(4) and (2)(b) of this ~~title~~ subchapter shall use the sirens or  
22 ~~colored-signal~~ emergency warning lamps, or both, only in the direct

1 performance of ~~their~~ official duties. When any ~~person~~ individual other than a  
2 law enforcement officer is operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in  
3 ~~subdivision~~ subsection 1252(a)(1) of this ~~title~~ subchapter, the ~~colored signal~~  
4 emergency warning lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When  
5 any ~~person~~ individual other than an authorized emergency medical service  
6 vehicle operator, firefighter, or authorized operator of vehicles used in rescue  
7 operations is operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in ~~subdivision~~  
8 subsection 1252(a)(2)(b) of this ~~title~~ subchapter, the ~~colored signal~~ emergency  
9 warning lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded unless the operator  
10 holds a senior operator license.

11 Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 4(1) is amended to read:

12 (1) “Authorized emergency vehicle” means a vehicle of a fire  
13 department, ~~police~~ law enforcement vehicle, public and private ambulance, and  
14 a vehicle ~~to which a permit has been issued pursuant to subdivision 1252(a)(1)~~  
15 ~~or (2)~~ equipped as provided in subsections 1252(a) and (b) of this title.

16 Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 1050a(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any authorized  
18 vehicle obviously and actually engaged in work upon a highway when the  
19 vehicle displays flashing lights meeting the requirements of subsection  
20 ~~1252(b)(d)~~ (d) of this title.

\* \* \* Child Restraint Systems \* \* \*

Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 1258 is amended to read:

§ 1258. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS; ~~PERSONS~~ INDIVIDUALS  
UNDER AGE 18 YEARS OF AGE

(a) No ~~person~~ individual shall operate a motor vehicle, other than a type I school bus, in this State upon a public highway unless every occupant under age 18 years of age is properly restrained in a federally approved child ~~passenger restraining~~ restraint system as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.213, as may be amended, or a federally approved safety belt, as follows:

(1) ~~all children~~ a child under ~~the two years of age of one and all children~~ weighing less than 20 pounds, regardless of age, shall be ~~restrained in a rear-facing position,~~ properly secured in a federally approved ~~child passenger restraining~~ rear-facing child restraint system with a harness, ~~which shall not be installed in front of an active air bag~~ as those terms are defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.213, as may be amended;

(2) a child ~~weighing more than 20 pounds, and who is one year of age or older and under the age of eight~~ five years; of age who is not properly secured in a federally approved rear-facing child restraint system in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be ~~restrained in a child passenger restraining system~~ properly secured in a forward-facing federally approved child restraint system with a harness until the child reaches the weight or height limit of the child restraint system as set by the manufacturer; and

1           (3) a child under eight years of age who is not properly secured in a  
2 federally approved child restraint system in accordance with subdivision (1) or  
3 (2) of this subsection shall be properly secured in a booster seat, as defined in  
4 49 C.F.R. § 571.213, as may be amended;

5           (4) a child ~~eight through 17~~ under 18 years of age who is not properly  
6 secured in a federally approved child restraint system in accordance with  
7 subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection shall be restrained in a safety belt  
8 system ~~or a child passenger restraining system;~~

9           (5) a child under 13 years of age shall always, if practical, ride in a rear  
10 seat of a motor vehicle; and

11           (6) no child shall be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system in the  
12 front seat of a motor vehicle that is equipped with an active passenger-side  
13 airbag unless the airbag is deactivated.

14           (b) ~~A person~~ An individual shall not be adjudicated in violation of this  
15 section if:

16           (1) the motor vehicle is regularly used to transport passengers for hire,  
17 except a motor vehicle owned or operated by a child care facility;

18           (2) the motor vehicle was manufactured without safety belts; or

19           (3) the ~~person~~ individual has been ordered by an enforcement officer, a  
20 firefighter, or an authorized civil authority to evacuate ~~persons~~ individuals  
21 from a stricken area.

22           (c) The civil penalty for violation of this section shall be as follows:

- 1 (1) \$25.00 for a first violation;
- 2 (2) \$50.00 for a second violation; and
- 3 (3) \$100.00 for third and subsequent violations.

4 Sec. 25. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS; PUBLIC OUTREACH

5 CAMPAIGN

6 (a) The Department of Health, in consultation with the State Highway  
7 Safety Office, shall implement a public outreach campaign on car seat safety  
8 that builds upon the current Be Seat Smart program; utilizes materials on child  
9 safety prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety  
10 Marketing; is consistent with the recommendations from the American  
11 Academy of Pediatrics in the Child Passenger Safety Policy Statement  
12 published in 2018; and educates Vermonters on 23 V.S.A. § 1258, as amended  
13 by Sec. 24 of this act.

14 (b) The public outreach campaign shall disseminate information on car seat  
15 safety through e-mail; a dedicated web page on car seat safety that is linked  
16 through the websites for the Agency of Transportation and the Department of  
17 Health; social media platforms; community posting websites; radio; television;  
18 and informational materials that can be printed and shall be made available to  
19 all pediatricians, obstetricians, and midwives licensed in the State and all Car  
20 Seat Inspection Stations in the State.

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\* \* \* Exempt Vehicle Title \* \* \*

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 2001(15) is amended to read:

(15) “Title or certificate of title” means a written instrument or document that certifies ownership of a vehicle and is issued by the Commissioner or equivalent official of another jurisdiction. These terms do not include an exempt vehicle title ~~authorized to be issued under subdivision 2013(a)(2) of this chapter.~~

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 2002(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) for any certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, ~~or an exempt vehicle title, \$42.00;~~

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

§ 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

No certificate of title need be obtained for:

\* \* \*

(10) a vehicle that is more than 15 years old on January 1, 2024 that has been registered in Vermont and has not had a change in ownership since January 1, 2024.

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 2016 is amended to read:

§ 2016. COMMISSIONER TO CHECK IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The Commissioner, upon receiving application for a first certificate of title ~~or exempt vehicle title,~~ shall check the identification number of the vehicle shown in the application against the records of vehicles required to be



1 maintained by section 2017 of this title and against the record of stolen and  
2 converted vehicles required to be maintained by section 2084 of this title.

3 Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 2021 is amended to read:

4 § 2021. REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE

5 The Commissioner shall refuse issuance of a certificate of title ~~or an exempt~~  
6 ~~vehicle title~~ if any required fee is not paid or ~~if he or she~~ the Commissioner has  
7 reasonable grounds to believe that:

8 \* \* \*

9 \* \* \* Vessels \* \* \*

10 \* \* \* Fire Extinguishers \* \* \*

11 Sec. 31. 23 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

12 § 3306. LIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT

13 \* \* \*

14 (c) ~~Every motorboat, except a motorboat that is less than 26 feet in length,~~  
15 ~~that has an outboard motor and an open construction, and is not carrying~~  
16 ~~passengers for hire shall carry on board, fully charged and in good condition,~~  
17 ~~U.S. Coast Guard approved hand portable fire extinguishers~~ U.S. Coast Guard-  
18 approved hand portable fire extinguishers that are unexpired, fully charged,  
19 and in both good and serviceable condition shall be carried on board every  
20 motorboat as follows:

21 (1) motorboats with no fixed fire extinguisher system in the machinery  
22 space and that are:

1 (A) less than 26 feet in length, one extinguisher;

2 (B) 26 feet or longer, but less than 40 feet, two extinguishers; and

3 (C) 40 feet or longer, three extinguishers-; and

4 (2) motorboats with a fixed fire extinguisher system in the machinery

5 space and that are:

6 (A) less than 26 feet in length, no extinguishers required;

7 (B) 26 feet or longer but less than 40 feet, one extinguisher; and

8 ~~(B)~~(C) 40 feet or longer, two extinguishers.

9 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, motorboats less than 26  
10 feet in length, propelled by outboard motors, and not carrying passengers for  
11 hire need not carry portable fire extinguishers if the construction of the boats  
12 will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

13 (e)(1) The extinguishers referred to by this section are class B-I or 5-B  
14 extinguishers, but one class B-II or 20-B extinguisher may be substituted for  
15 two class B-I or 5-B extinguishers, in compliance with 46 C.F.R. Subpart  
16 25.30, as amended.

17 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, motorboats with  
18 a model year between 1953 and 2017 with previously approved fire  
19 extinguishers that are not in compliance with the types identified in subdivision  
20 (1) of this subsection need not be replaced until such time as they are no longer  
21 in good and serviceable condition.

22 ~~(e)~~(f) Every marine toilet on board any vessel operated on the waters of the

1 State shall also incorporate or be equipped with a holding tank. Any holding  
2 tank or marine toilet designed so as to provide for an optional means of  
3 discharge to the waters on which the vessel is operating shall have the  
4 discharge openings sealed shut and any discharge lines, pipes, or hoses shall be  
5 disconnected and stored while the vessel is in the waters of this State.

6 ~~(f)~~(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the discharge of  
7 adequately treated wastes from any vessel operating under the provisions of a  
8 valid discharge permit issued by the Department of Environmental  
9 Conservation.

10 ~~(g)~~(h) Motorboats operated on waters that the U.S. Coast Guard has  
11 determined to be navigable waters of the United States and therefore subject to  
12 the jurisdiction of the United States must have lights and other safety  
13 equipment as required by U.S. Coast Guard rules and regulations.

14 \* \* \* Vermont Numbering Provisions \* \* \*

15 Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 3307(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) A motorboat is not required to have a Vermont number under this  
17 chapter if it is:

18 (1) already covered by a number in effect that has been awarded to it  
19 under federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state if  
20 the boat has not been within the State for more than ~~90~~ 60 days;

21 (2) a motorboat from a country other than the United States if the boat  
22 has not been within the State for more than ~~90~~ 60 days;

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\* \* \* Commercial Driver’s Licenses and Permits \* \* \*

\* \* \* Prohibition on Masking or Diversion \* \* \*

Sec. 33. 23 V.S.A. § 4122 is amended to read:

§ 4122. DEFERRING IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE; PROHIBITION ON MASKING OR DIVERSION

(a) No judge or court, State’s Attorney, or law enforcement officer may utilize the provisions of 13 V.S.A. § 7041 or any other program to defer imposition of sentence or judgment if the defendant holds a commercial driver’s license or was operating a commercial motor vehicle when the violation occurred and is charged with violating any State or local traffic law other than a parking violation.

(b) In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 384.226, no court, State’s Attorney, or law enforcement officer may mask or allow an individual to enter into a diversion program that would prevent a commercial learner’s permit holder’s or commercial driver’s license holder’s conviction for any violation, in any type of motor vehicle, of a state or local traffic control law other than parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations from appearing on the Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS) driver record.

\* \* \* Airbags \* \* \*

Sec. 34. 13 V.S.A. § 2026 is amended to read:

§ 2026. INSTALLATION OF OBJECT IN LIEU OF AIR BAG

(a) No person shall knowingly:

(1) manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, sell, lease, transfer, install or, reinstall or knowingly, cause to be installed, or cause to be reinstalled: a counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system component, a nonfunctional airbag, or

~~(1) an object in lieu of a vehicle air bag that was designed in accordance with the federal safety regulation~~ an automobile supplement restraint system component, when the object does not comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 571.208, as amended, for the make, model, and year of a vehicle;  
or

~~(2) an inoperable vehicle air bag, knowing the air bag is inoperable~~ install or reinstall as an automobile supplemental restraint system component anything that causes the diagnostic system for a motor vehicle to fail to warn the motor vehicle operator that an airbag is not installed or fail to warn the motor vehicle operator that a counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system component or nonfunctional airbag is installed in the motor vehicle.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than three years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(c) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section, and serious bodily

1 injury, as defined in section 1021 of this title, or death results, shall be  
2 imprisoned for not more than 15 years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or  
3 both.

4 (d) As used in this section:

5 (1) “Airbag” means an inflatable restraint device for occupants of motor  
6 vehicles that is part of an automobile supplemental restraint system.

7 (2) “Automobile supplemental restraint system” means a passive  
8 inflatable crash protection system that a vehicle manufacturer designs to  
9 protect automobile occupants in the event of a collision in conjunction with a  
10 seat belt assembly, as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.209, and that consists of one  
11 or more airbags and all components required to ensure that each airbag:

12 (A) operates as designed in a crash; and

13 (B) meets federal motor vehicle safety standards for the specific  
14 make, model, and year of manufacture of the vehicle in which the airbag is  
15 installed.

16 (3) “Counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system component”  
17 means a replacement component, including an airbag, for an automobile  
18 supplemental restraint system that without the authorization of a manufacturer,  
19 or a person that supplies parts to the manufacturer, displays a trademark that is  
20 identical or substantially similar to the manufacturer’s or supplier’s genuine  
21 trademark.

22 (4) “Install” and “reinstall” require the completion of installation work

1 related to the automobile supplemental restraint system of a motor vehicle and  
2 either:

3 (A) for the motor vehicle to be returned to the owner or operator; or

4 (B) for the transfer of title for the motor vehicle.

5 (5) “Nonfunctional airbag” means a replacement airbag that:

6 (A) was previously deployed or damaged;

7 (B) has a fault that the diagnostic system for a motor vehicle detects  
8 once the airbag is installed;

9 (C) may not be sold or leased under 49 U.S.C. § 30120(j); or

10 (D) includes a counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system  
11 component or other part or object that is installed for the purpose of misleading  
12 a motor vehicle owner or operator into believing that a functional airbag is  
13 installed.

14 (6) “Nonfunctional airbag” does not include an unrepaired deployed  
15 airbag or an airbag that is installed in a motor vehicle:

16 (A) that is a totaled motor vehicle, as defined in 23 V.S.A.  
17 § 2001(14); or

18 (B) for which the owner was issued a salvaged certificate of title  
19 pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 2091 or a similar title from another state.

1           \* \* \* Licensed Dealers; Used Vehicle Sales; Disclosures \* \* \*

2           Sec. 35. 23 V.S.A. § 466 is amended to read:

3           § 466. RECORDS; DISCLOSURES; CUSTODIAN

4           (a) On a form prescribed or approved by the Commissioner, every licensed  
5           dealer shall maintain and retain for six years a record containing the following  
6           information, which shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement officer  
7           or motor vehicle inspector or other agent of the Commissioner during  
8           reasonable business hours:

9           (1) Every vehicle or motorboat that is bought, sold, or exchanged by the  
10          licensee or received or accepted by the licensee for sale or exchange.

11          (2) Every vehicle or motorboat that is bought or otherwise acquired and  
12          dismantled by the licensee.

13          (3) The name and address of the person from whom such vehicle or  
14          motorboat was purchased or acquired, the date thereof, the name and address  
15          of the person to whom any such vehicle or motorboat was sold or otherwise  
16          disposed of and the date thereof, and a sufficient description of every such  
17          vehicle or motorboat by name and identifying numbers thereon to identify the  
18          same.

19          (4) [Repealed.]

20          (b)(1) On a form prescribed or approved by the Commissioner, a licensed  
21          dealer shall provide written disclosure to each buyer of a used motor vehicle  
22          regarding the following:



1           (A) the month in which the vehicle was last inspected pursuant to  
2           section 1222 of this title;

3           (B) the month in which the inspection shall expire;

4           (C) whether the most recent inspection was by the dealer currently  
5           selling the motor vehicle;

6           (D) a statement that the condition of the motor vehicle may be  
7           different than the condition at the last inspection, unless inspected by the dealer  
8           selling the vehicle for the current transaction;

9           (E) a statement regarding the right of a potential buyer to have the  
10          vehicle inspected by an independent qualified mechanic of their choice and at  
11          their own expense; and

12          (F) a clear and conspicuous statement, if applicable, that the vehicle  
13          is being transferred without an inspection sticker, with an expired inspection  
14          sticker, or with an inspection sticker from another state.

15          (2) The licensed dealer shall maintain and retain record of the disclosure  
16          statement, signed by both the dealer and the buyer, for two years after transfer  
17          of ownership. The record shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement  
18          officer or motor vehicle inspector or other agent of the Commissioner during  
19          reasonable business hours.

20          (c) Every licensed dealer shall designate a custodian of documents who  
21          shall have primary responsibility for administration of documents required to  
22          be maintained under this title. In the absence of the designated custodian, the

1 dealer shall have an ongoing duty to make such records available for  
2 inspection by any law enforcement officer or motor vehicle inspector or other  
3 agent of the Commissioner during reasonable business hours.

4 \* \* \* DMV Credentials and Number Plates; Veteran Designations \* \* \*

5 Sec. 36. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

6 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State to properly honor  
7 veterans, which includes Vermonters who have served in the active military,  
8 naval, air, or space service, and who have been discharged or released from  
9 active service under conditions other than dishonorable, where active military,  
10 naval, air, or space service includes:

11 (1) active duty;

12 (2) any period of active duty for training during which the individual  
13 concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated  
14 in line of duty; and

15 (3) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual  
16 concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of  
17 duty or from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a  
18 cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

19 (b) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of  
20 Motor Vehicles and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs:

1           (1) jointly determine which specialty plates should be offered to  
2           veterans so as to ensure specific recognition for those who have received a  
3           military award or decoration and those who have served in combat; and

4           (2) allow for a means for a veteran to request that a new specialty plate  
5           be designed and offered to veterans when an existing specialty plate does not  
6           provide for specific recognition of the veteran.

7           Sec. 37. 23 V.S.A. § 7(b) is amended to read:

8           (b) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced  
9           license may be issued to ~~a person~~ an individual, the ~~person~~ individual shall  
10          present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to  
11          determine identity and U.S. citizenship. An application shall be accompanied  
12          by: a photo identity document, documentation showing the ~~person's~~  
13          individual's date and place of birth, proof of the ~~person's~~ individual's Social  
14          Security number, and documentation showing the ~~person's~~ individual's  
15          principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include  
16          a space for the applicant to request that a “veteran” designation be placed on  
17          the enhanced license. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and  
18          including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space  
19          service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and  
20          provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status  
21          specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs  
22          confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran

1 ~~or~~; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled  
2 during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall  
3 include the term “veteran” on its face. To be issued, an enhanced license must  
4 meet the same requirements as those for the issuance of a U.S. passport.

5 Before an application may be processed, the documents and information shall  
6 be verified as determined by the Commissioner. Any additional personal  
7 identity information not currently required by the U.S. Department of  
8 Homeland Security shall need the approval of either the General Assembly or  
9 the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules prior to the  
10 implementation of the requirements.

11 Sec. 38. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

12 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

13 (a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and  
14 be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true  
15 name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is  
16 requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other  
17 identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case  
18 of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant’s parent, guardian, or  
19 other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification  
20 card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age  
21 and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (l) of  
22 this section. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the

1 applicant to request that a “veteran” designation be placed on the applicant’s  
2 identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including  
3 an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as  
4 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a  
5 Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by  
6 the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans’ Affairs confirms the  
7 veteran’s status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged  
8 under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military,  
9 naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term  
10 “veteran” on its face. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of  
11 \$29.00 at the time application for an identification card is made, except that an  
12 initial nondriver identification card shall be issued at no charge to an individual  
13 who surrenders the individual’s license in connection with a suspension or  
14 revocation under subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental  
15 condition.

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

18 § 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY  
19 AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES

20 \* \* \*

21 (j) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application,  
22 issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and

1 including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space  
2 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), and to members of the U.S. Armed  
3 Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for use on vehicles registered at the  
4 pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the motorcycle rate, and on trucks  
5 registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under  
6 the International Registration Plan. The type and style of the ~~plate~~ plates shall  
7 be determined by the Commissioner, ~~except that an American flag, or a~~  
8 ~~veteran or military related emblem selected by the Commissioner and the~~  
9 ~~Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs shall appear on one side of the plate. At a~~  
10 ~~minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize recipients of the Purple~~  
11 ~~Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war, and disabled veterans.~~  
12 An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the  
13 applicant's eligibility as a member of one of the groups recognized will be  
14 certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. The plates shall be reissued only  
15 to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. The Commissioner  
16 may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for  
17 new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of plates under this  
18 subsection shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject  
19 to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new  
20 emblems shall be borne by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 40. 23 V.S.A. § 610(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) The Commissioner shall assign a distinguishing number to each  
3 licensee and shall furnish the licensee with a license certificate that shows the  
4 number and the licensee’s full name, date of birth, and residential address,  
5 except that at the request of the licensee, the licensee’s mailing address may be  
6 listed, or an alternative address may be listed if otherwise authorized by law.  
7 The certificate also shall include a brief physical description and a space for  
8 the signature of the licensee. The license shall be void until signed by the  
9 licensee. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an  
10 individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as  
11 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides  
12 proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 603(a)(3) of this title, and  
13 the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans’ Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual’s  
14 status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~ a veteran discharged under  
15 honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval,  
16 air, or space service, the license certificate shall include the term “veteran” on  
17 its face.

18 Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 4111 is amended to read:

19 § 4111. COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE

20 (a) Contents of license. A commercial driver’s license shall be marked  
21 “commercial driver’s license” or “CDL” and shall be, to the maximum extent  
22 practicable, tamper proof and shall include the following information:

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\* \* \*

(12) A veteran designation if a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests the designation and provides proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 4110(a)(5) of this title, and if the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans’ Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual’s status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~ a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Conservation Motor Vehicle License Plates; Motorcycles \* \* \*

Sec. 42. 23 V.S.A. § 304b is amended to read:

§ 304b. CONSERVATION MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

(a) The Commissioner shall, upon application, issue conservation registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on motorcycles, on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, and on vehicles registered to State agencies under section 376 of this title, but excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the front and rear of the vehicle, except that a motorcycle plate shall be mounted only on the rear of the motorcycle. The Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Fish and Wildlife shall determine the graphic design of the special plates in a manner that serves to enhance the



1 public awareness of the State’s interest in restoring and protecting its wildlife  
2 and major watershed areas. The Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Fish  
3 and Wildlife may alter the graphic design of these special plates, provided that  
4 plates in use at the time of a design alteration shall remain valid subject to the  
5 operator’s payment of the annual registration fee. Applicants shall apply on  
6 forms prescribed by the Commissioner and shall pay an initial fee of \$32.00 in  
7 addition to the annual fee for registration. In following years, in addition to the  
8 annual registration fee, the holder of a conservation plate shall pay a renewal  
9 fee of \$32.00. The Commissioner may adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25  
10 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

11 \* \* \*

12 \* \* \* Use of Roadway by Pedestrians, Bicycle Operators, and  
13 Vulnerable Users \* \* \*

14 Sec. 43. 23 V.S.A. § 4(67) is amended to read:

15 (67) “Pedestrian” means any ~~person~~ individual ~~afoot or operating a~~  
16 wheelchair or other personal mobility device, whether motorized or not, and  
17 ~~shall also include any person 16 years of age or older operating~~ including an  
18 electric personal assistive mobility device. ~~The age restriction of this~~  
19 ~~subdivision shall not apply to a person who has an ambulatory disability as~~  
20 ~~defined in section 304a of this title.~~

1 Sec. 44. 23 V.S.A. § 1033 is amended to read:

2 § 1033. PASSING MOTOR VEHICLES AND VULNERABLE USERS

3 \* \* \*

4 (b) Approaching or passing vulnerable users. The ~~operator of~~ individual  
5 operating a motor vehicle approaching or passing a vulnerable user as defined  
6 in subdivision 4(81) of this title shall exercise due care, which includes  
7 reducing speed and increasing clearance to a ~~recommended~~ distance of at least  
8 four feet, to pass the vulnerable user safely, and shall cross the center of the  
9 highway only as provided in section 1035 of this title. ~~A person~~ An individual  
10 who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than  
11 \$200.00.

12 (c) Approaching or passing certain stationary vehicles. The ~~operator of~~  
13 individual operating a motor vehicle approaching or passing a stationary  
14 sanitation, maintenance, utility, or delivery vehicle with flashing lights shall  
15 exercise due care, which includes reducing speed and increasing clearance to a  
16 recommended distance of at least four feet, to pass the vehicle safely, and shall  
17 cross the center of the highway only as provided in section 1035 of this title. ~~A~~  
18 ~~person~~ An individual who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil  
19 penalty of not less than \$200.00.

1 Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 1055 is amended to read:

2 § 1055. PEDESTRIANS ON ROADWAYS

3 (a) ~~Where public sidewalks are provided, no person may walk along or~~  
4 ~~upon an adjacent roadway. [Repealed.]~~

5 (b) ~~Where public sidewalks are not provided, any~~ Any pedestrian walking  
6 along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left side of  
7 the roadway or its shoulder facing the direction of possible oncoming traffic.

8 Sec. 46. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
9 SAFETY; IDAHO STOP STUDY; REPORT

10 The Agency of Transportation, in collaboration with the Department of  
11 Public Safety and in consultation with bicycle safety organizations and other  
12 relevant stakeholders, shall study the potential effects of implementing a  
13 statewide policy that grants an individual operating a bicycle rights and  
14 responsibilities at traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals that differ  
15 from those applicable to operators of motor vehicles. The study shall include  
16 consideration of the potential effects of allowing individuals operating bicycles  
17 to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights at traffic signals as stop signs,  
18 also known as an “Idaho Stop,” and of allowing individuals operating bicycles  
19 to cross intersections during a pedestrian phase at pedestrian-control devices  
20 and pedestrian-control signals. On or before December 15, 2024, the Agency  
21 shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation with its  
22 findings and recommendations.

1 Sec. 47. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; ACTIVE

2 TRANSPORTATION POLICY REPORT

3 (a) The Agency of Transportation shall prepare an Active Transportation  
4 Policy Report that provides a comprehensive review of Vermont statutes,  
5 including those in Titles 19 and 23, relating to the rights and responsibilities of  
6 vulnerable road users, in order to inform best practices and policy outcomes.  
7 The Agency shall develop the Report in consultation with relevant  
8 stakeholders identified by the Agency, which shall include bicycle safety  
9 organizations.

10 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency shall submit the written  
11 Active Transportation Policy Report, which shall include a summary of the  
12 Agency’s review efforts and any recommendations for revisions to Vermont  
13 statutes, to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation.

14 \* \* \* License Plates for Plug-In Electric Vehicles \* \* \*

15 Sec. 48. LICENSE PLATES FOR PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES;

16 FINDINGS

17 The General Assembly finds that:

18 (1) Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs), which include plug-in hybrid  
19 electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles, provide new and unique  
20 challenges for first responders and firefighters when responding to the scene of  
21 a crash that may involve a PEV.



1       Sec. 50. LICENSE PLATES FOR PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES;  
2                   IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS; REPORT

3           (a) In accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 304(k), not later than July 1, 2026, the  
4           Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall begin issuing number and vanity plates  
5           for plug-in electric vehicles (PEV) indicating that the vehicle is a PEV.

6           (b)(1) Upon the purchase of a PEV, the purchaser shall not transfer a non-  
7           PEV plate to the newly purchased PEV unless the plate is a vanity or special  
8           number plate.

9           (2) For the purchaser of a PEV whose previous plate was not a vanity or  
10          special number plate, the Commissioner shall issue a new PEV plate, which  
11          the purchaser shall install upon receipt.

12          (3) For the purchaser of a PEV whose previous plate was a vanity or  
13          special number plate and who wishes to retain that plate for the newly  
14          purchased PEV, the purchaser may transfer and display the existing plate until  
15          the Commissioner issues the purchaser a new vanity or special number plate  
16          indicating that the vehicle is a PEV, except as set forth in subsection (d) of this  
17          section. The purchaser shall install the new PEV plate upon receipt.

18          (c) An individual who owns a PEV on the effective date of this act may  
19          continue to display the individual's existing plate until the individual receives a  
20          new PEV plate from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The owner shall  
21          install the new PEV plate upon receipt.

1        (d) The Commissioner is authorized to reject existing plates for transfer or  
2        renewal due to space limitations on the new PEV plates.

3        (e) On or before March 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall  
4        provide testimony to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation  
5        regarding the status of its efforts to implement license plates for PEVs as set  
6        forth in this section and in 23 V.S.A. § 304(k).

7                                \* \* \* Distracted Driving Diversion Program \* \* \*

8        Sec. 51. DISTRACTED DRIVING DIVERSION PROGRAM

9                                RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT

10        (a) The Community Justice Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, in  
11        consultation with the Court Diversion programs, the Vermont Judiciary, the  
12        Department of Motor Vehicles, and representatives of Vermont law  
13        enforcement agencies, shall evaluate the feasibility of and design options for  
14        establishing a distracted driving diversion program as an alternative to civil  
15        penalties and points for individuals who violate Vermont’s distracted driving  
16        laws, including 23 V.S.A. §§ 1095a, 1095b, and 1099. The issues for the  
17        Community Justice Unit to consider shall include:

18                                (1) whether conducting a distracted driving diversion program is  
19        feasible;

20                                (2) if so, how such a distracted driving diversion program should be  
21        structured and administered;

22                                (3) the age groups to which the program should be made available;





1

2

3 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

4

\_\_\_\_\_

5

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

6

FOR THE COMMITTEE