

No. 46. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the motor vehicle laws.

(S.94)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Dealer Records Custodian * * *

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 466 is amended to read:

§ 466. RECORDS; CUSTODIAN

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

(1) Every motor vehicle which is bought, sold, or exchanged by the licensee or received or accepted by the licensee for sale or exchange;

(2) Every motor vehicle which is bought or otherwise acquired and dismantled by the licensee;

(3) The name and address of the person from whom such motor vehicle was purchased or acquired, the date thereof, name and address of the person to whom any such motor vehicle was sold or otherwise disposed of and the date thereof, a sufficient description of every such motor vehicle by name and identifying numbers thereon to identify the same;

(4) If the motor vehicle is sold or otherwise transferred to a consumer,

the cash price. For purposes of this section, “consumer” shall be as defined in ~~subsection 2451a(a) of Title 9 V.S.A. § 2451a(a)~~ and “cash price” shall be as defined in ~~subdivision 2351(6) of Title 9 V.S.A. § 2351(6)~~.

(b) Every licensed dealer shall designate a custodian of documents who shall have primary responsibility for administration of documents required to be maintained under this title. In the absence of the designated custodian, the dealer shall have an ongoing duty to make such records available for inspection by any law enforcement officer or motor vehicle inspector or other agent of the commissioner during reasonable business hours.

* * * Surrender of License or Registration * * *

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 204 is amended to read:

§ 204. ~~PROCEDURE FOR REVOCATION~~ SURRENDER OF LICENSE OR
REGISTRATION

(a) A person whose license to operate a motor vehicle, nondriver identification card, or motor vehicle registration has been issued in error ~~or is suspended or revoked by the commissioner under the provisions of this title~~ shall surrender forthwith his or her license or registration upon demand of the commissioner or his or her authorized inspector or agent. The demand shall be made in person or by notice in writing sent by first class mail to the last known address of the person.

(b) The commissioner or his or her authorized inspector or agent, and all

enforcement officers are authorized to take possession of any certificate of title, nondriver identification card, registration, or license issued by this or any other jurisdiction, which has been revoked, canceled, or suspended, or which is fictitious, stolen, or altered.

* * *

* * * Vanity and Other Special Plates * * *

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

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

* * *

(b) The authority to issue ~~special~~ vanity motor vehicle number plates or ~~receive applications or petitions for~~ special number plates for safety organizations and service organizations shall reside with the commissioner. Determination of compliance with the criteria contained in this ~~subsection~~ section shall be within the discretion of the commissioner. Series of number plates for safety and service organizations which are authorized by the commissioner shall be issued in order of approval, subject to the operating considerations in the department as determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue vanity and special organization number plates ~~marked with initials, letters, or combination of numerals and letters,~~ in the following manner:

(1) ~~Except as otherwise provided,~~ Vanity plates. Subject to the restrictions of this section, vanity plates shall be issued at the request of the registrant of any motor vehicle, a vehicle registered at the pleasure car rate or of a truck registered for less than 26,001 pounds (but excluding trucks registered under the International Registration Plan) upon application and upon payment of an annual fee of \$38.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. The commissioner shall not issue two sets of special number plates bearing the same initials or letters unless the plates also contain a distinguishing number. ~~Special number~~ Vanity plates are subject to reassignment if not renewed within 60 days of expiration of the registration.

(2) Special organization plates.

(A) For the purposes of this ~~subdivision,~~ “safety section:

(i) ~~“Safety organizations” shall include groups which have at least 100 in-state members in good standing and are groups that provide police and fire protection, rescue squads, the Vermont national guard, together with those organizations required to respond to public emergencies. It shall include, and~~ amateur radio operators licensed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission. ~~For purposes of this subdivision,~~ To qualify for a special organization plate, safety organizations must have at least 100 in-state members in good standing.

(ii) ~~“service~~ “Service organization” includes congressionally

chartered or noncongressionally chartered United States military service veterans' groups, and any group which:

~~(i)~~(I) has as a primary purpose, service to the community through specific programs for the improvement of public health, education, or environmental awareness and conservation, and ~~are~~ is not limited to social activities;

~~(ii)~~(II) has nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) or (10) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended;

~~(iii)~~(III) is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the office of the secretary of state; and

~~(iv)~~(IV) except for a military veterans group, has at least 100 ~~instate~~ in-state members in good standing. ~~“Service organization” also includes congressionally chartered and noncongressionally chartered United States military service veterans groups.~~

~~(A) At the request of the leader~~ (B) The officer of a safety organization or service organization, ~~upon application and payment of a fee of \$15.00 for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for registration,~~ may apply to the commissioner to approve special plates indicating membership in one of the ~~“safety organizations” or “service organizations”~~ may be issued to ~~registrants of vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and of trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under~~

~~the International Registration Plan, who are members of these organizations.~~
The applicant must provide a written statement from the appropriate official of the organization, authorizing the issuance of the plates a qualifying organization to be issued to organization members for a \$15.00 special fee for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for registration. The application shall include designation of an officer or member to serve as the principal contact with the department and a distinctive name or emblem or both for use on the proposed special plate. The name and emblem shall not be objectively obscene or confusing to the general public and shall not promote, advertise, or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for sale. The organization's name and emblem must not infringe on or violate a trademark, trade name, service mark, copyright, or other proprietary or property right, and the organization must have the right to use the name and emblem. After consulting with the principal contact, the commissioner shall determine the design of the special plate on the basis that the primary purpose of motor vehicle number plates is vehicle identification. An organization may have only one design, regardless of the number of individual organizational units, squads, or departments within the state that may conduct the same or substantially similar activities.

~~(B) At the time that an organization requests the plates, it~~ (C) After the plate design is finalized and an officer or the principal contact provides the

commissioner a written statement authorizing issuance of the plates, the organization shall deposit \$2,000.00 with the commissioner. Of this deposit, \$500.00 shall be retained by the department to recover costs of developing the organization plate. Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 502, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and the balance shall be deposited in the transportation fund. Upon application, special plates shall be issued to a registrant of a vehicle registered at the pleasure car rate or of a truck registered for less than 26,001 pounds (but excluding trucks registered under the International Registration Plan) who furnishes the commissioner satisfactory proof that he or she is a member of an organization that has satisfied the requirements of this subdivision (b)(2). For each of the first 100 applicants to whom sets of plates are issued, the \$15.00 special plate fee shall not be collected and shall be subtracted from the balance of this the deposit shall be deemed to be the safety organization or service organization special plate fee for each authorized applicant. ~~Of this deposit, \$500.00 shall be retained by the department to recover costs of developing the organization plate.~~ When the ~~initial deposit of \$1,500.00~~ balance of the deposit is depleted, applicants shall be required to pay the \$15.00 fee as provided for in subdivision ~~(1)(2)(B)~~ (2)(B) of this subsection. ~~Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 502, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and shall remit the balance to the~~

~~transportation fund.~~ No organization shall charge its members any additional fee or premium charge for the authorization, right, or privilege to display these special number plates. ~~This provision shall not prevent, but~~ any organization ~~from recovering~~ may recover up to \$1,500.00 from applicants for the special plates.

~~(C) After consulting with representatives of the safety or service organization, the commissioner shall determine the design of the special plates, on the basis that the primary purpose of motor vehicle number plates is vehicle identification. An organization applying for a special plate under this subsection shall present the commissioner with a name and emblem that is not obscene, offensive or confusing to the general public and does not promote, advertise or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for sale, or promote any specific religious belief or political party. The organization's name and emblem must not infringe or violate trademarks, trade names, service marks, copyrights, or other proprietary or property rights and the organization must have the right to use the name and emblem. The organization shall designate an officer or member to act as the principal contact and to submit a distinctive emblem for use on a special number plate, if authorized. An organization may have only one design, regardless of the number of individual organizational units within the state that may provide the same or substantially similar services. Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing any individual~~

~~squad, department, or unit to request a unique or specially designed plate different than the plate designed by the commissioner.~~

(D) When an individual's membership in a qualifying organization ceases or is terminated, the individual shall surrender any special registration plates issued under this subsection to the commissioner forthwith. However, a retired member of the Vermont national guard may ~~retain~~ renew or, upon payment of a \$10.00 fee, acquire, the special guard plates after notification of eligibility for retired pay has been received.

* * *

(d) ~~Special~~ Vanity or special organization number plates, whether new or renewed, shall be issued in any combination or succession of numerals and letters, provided the total of the numbers and letters on any plate taken together does not exceed seven, and further provided the requested combination of letters and numerals does not duplicate or resemble a regular issue registration plate. The commissioner may adopt rules for the issuance of vanity or special organization number plates to ensure that all plates serve the primary purpose of vehicle identification. The commissioner may revoke any plate described in ~~subdivisions (1) through (7)~~ of this subsection and shall not issue ~~special number~~ plates with ~~the following combination~~ combinations of letters or numbers that objectively, in any language:

(1) ~~Combinations of letters or numbers with any connotation, in any~~

~~language, that is are vulgar, derogatory, profane, racial epithets, scatological, or obscene, or constitute racial or ethnic epithets;~~

~~(2) Combinations of letters or numbers that connote, in any language, breast, genitalia, pubic area, or buttocks or relate to sexual or eliminatory functions. Additionally, "69" formats are prohibited unless used in combination with the vehicle make, for example, "69 CHEV.";~~

~~(3) Combinations of letters or numbers that connote, in any language:~~

~~(A) any illicit drug, narcotic, intoxicant, or related paraphernalia;~~

~~(B) the sale, the user, or the purveyor of such substance;~~

~~(C) the physiological state produced by such a substance. refer to any intoxicant or drug; to the use, nonuse, distribution, or sale of an intoxicant or drug; or to a user, nonuser, or purveyor of an intoxicant or drug;~~

~~(4) Combinations of letters or numbers that refer, in any language, to a race, religion, color, deity, ethnic heritage, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability status, or political affiliation; ~~provided, however, the commissioner shall not refuse a combination of letters or numbers that is a generally accepted reference to a race or ethnic heritage (for example, IRISH);~~;~~

~~(5) Combinations of letters or numbers that suggest, in any language, a government or governmental agency;~~

~~(6) Combinations of letters or numbers that suggest, in any language, a privilege not given by law in this state; or~~

(7) ~~Combinations of letters or numbers that form, in any language,~~ a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling, or mirror image of a word described in subdivisions (1) through (6) of this subsection.

* * *

(j) The commissioner of motor vehicles shall, upon proper application, issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), and to members of the United States Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for use ~~only~~ on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the motorcycle rate, and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. The type and style of the ~~veterans'~~ plate shall be determined by the commissioner, except that an American flag, or a veteran- or military-related emblem selected by the commissioner and the Vermont office of veterans' affairs shall appear on one side of the plate. At a minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize recipients of the Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war, and disabled veterans. An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and the applicant's ~~status both as a veteran and~~ eligibility as a member of one of the groups recognized will be certified by the office of veterans' affairs. The plates shall be reissued only to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this

subsection. Except for new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of ~~veterans~~² plates under this subsection shall be processed in the order received by the department subject to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new emblems shall be borne by the department of motor vehicles.

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* * * Replacement Number Plates * * *

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 514 is amended to read:

§ 514. REPLACEMENT NUMBER PLATES

* * *

(b) Any replacement number plate shall be issued at a fee of \$10.00.

However, if the commissioner, in his or her discretion, determines that a plate has become illegible as a result of deficiencies in the manufacturing process or by use of faulty materials, the replacement fee shall be waived.

* * * Issuance of Licenses to Foreign Citizens * * *

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:

§ 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

* * *

(d) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, a citizen of a foreign country shall produce his or her passport and visa, alien registration receipt card (green card), or other proof of legal presence for inspection and copying

as a part of the application process for an operator license, junior operator license, or learner permit. Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary, an operator license, junior operator license, or learner permit issued to a citizen of a foreign country shall expire coincidentally with his or her authorized duration of stay. ~~A license or permit issued under this section may not be issued to be valid for a period of less than 180 days.~~

* * * Penalty for Failure to Maintain Financial Responsibility * * *

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 800 is amended to read:

§ 800. MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

(a) No owner ~~of a motor vehicle required to be registered,~~ or operator ~~of a motor vehicle~~ required to be licensed or issued a learner's permit, shall operate or permit the operation of the vehicle upon the highways of the state without having in effect an automobile liability policy or bond in the amounts of at least \$25,000.00 for one person and \$50,000.00 for two or more persons killed or injured and \$10,000.00 for damages to property in any one accident. In lieu thereof, evidence of self-insurance in the amount of \$115,000.00 must be filed with the commissioner of motor vehicles. ~~Such financial responsibility, and~~ shall be maintained and evidenced in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may require that evidence of financial responsibility be produced before motor vehicle inspections are performed pursuant to the requirements of section 1222 of this title.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$100.00 \$500.00, and such violation shall be a traffic violation within the meaning of chapter 24 of this title.

* * * Proof of Financial Responsibility * * *

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 801 is amended to read:

§ 801. PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRED

(a) The commissioner shall require proof of financial responsibility to satisfy any claim for damages, by reason of personal injury to or the death of any person, of at least \$25,000.00 for one person and \$50,000.00 for two or more persons killed or injured and \$10,000.00 for damages to property in any one accident, as follows:

* * *

(3) From the operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident which has resulted in bodily injury or death to any person or whereby the motor vehicle then under his or her control or any other property is damaged in an aggregate amount to the extent of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$3,000.00 or more, excepting, however:

(A) an operator furnishing the commissioner with satisfactory proof that a standard provisions automobile liability insurance policy, issued by an insurance company authorized to transact business in this state insuring the person against public liability and property damage, in the amounts required

under this section with respect to proof of financial responsibility, was in effect at the time of the accident;² or

(B) ~~if the operator was~~ a nonresident operator holding a valid license issued by the state of his or her residence at the time of the accident, who furnishes satisfactory proof, in the form of a certificate issued by an insurance company authorized to transact business in the state of his or her residence, when accompanied by a power of attorney authorizing the commissioner to accept service on its behalf of notice or process in any action upon the policy arising out of the accident, certifying that insurance covering the legal liability of the operator to satisfy any claim or claims for damage to person or property, in an amount equal to the amounts required under this section with respect to proof of financial responsibility, was in effect at the time of the accident.

* * * Civil Suspensions for DUI Violations * * *

Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 1205 is amended to read:

§ 1205. CIVIL SUSPENSION; SUMMARY PROCEDURE

(a) Refusal; alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more; suspension periods. For a first suspension under this chapter:

* * *

(2) Upon affidavit of a law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201

of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate or being in actual physical control, the commissioner shall suspend the person's operating license, or nonresident operating privilege, or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle for a period of 90 days and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. However, a person may operate under the terms of an ignition interlock RDL issued pursuant to section 1213 of this title after 30 days of this 90-day period unless the alleged offense involved a collision resulting in serious bodily injury or death to another.

(b) Form of officer's affidavit. A law enforcement officer's affidavit in support of a suspension under this section shall be in a standardized form for use throughout the state and shall be sufficient if it contains the following statements:

* * *

(5) The officer obtained an evidentiary test (noting the time and date the test was taken) and the test indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as

defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, or the person refused to submit to an evidentiary test.

* * *

(c) Notice of suspension. On behalf of the commissioner of motor vehicles, a law enforcement officer requesting or directing the administration of an evidentiary test shall serve notice of intention to suspend and of suspension on a person who refuses to submit to an evidentiary test or on a person who submits to a test the results of which indicate that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title. The notice shall be signed by the law enforcement officer requesting the test. ~~The notice shall also serve as a temporary operator's license and shall be valid until the effective date of suspension indicated on the notice. At the time the notice is given to the person, the person shall surrender, and the law enforcement officer shall take possession and custody of, the person's license or permit and forward it to the commissioner.~~ A copy of the notice shall be sent to the commissioner of motor vehicles and a copy shall be mailed or given

to the defendant within three business days of the date the officer receives the results of the test. If mailed, the notice is deemed received three days after mailing to the address provided by the defendant to the law enforcement officer. A copy of the affidavit of the law enforcement officer shall also be mailed first class mail or given to the defendant within seven days of the date of notice.

* * *

(h) Final hearing.

(1) If the defendant requests a hearing on the merits, the court shall schedule a final hearing on the merits to be held within 21 days of the date of the preliminary hearing. In no event may a final hearing occur more than 42 days after the date of the alleged offense without the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The final hearing may only be continued by the consent of the defendant or for good cause shown. The issues at the final hearing shall be limited to the following:

* * *

(D) whether the test was taken and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, at the time of operating, attempting to operate

or being in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title, whether the testing methods used were valid and reliable and whether the test results were accurate and accurately evaluated. Evidence that the test was taken and evaluated in compliance with rules adopted by the department of health shall be prima facie evidence that the testing methods used were valid and reliable and that the test results are accurate and were accurately evaluated;

* * *

(i) Finding by the court. The court shall electronically forward a report of the hearing to the commissioner. Upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person refused to submit to a test, or upon a finding by the court that the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of section 1201 of this title and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, at the time the person was operating, attempting to operate or in actual physical control, the person's

operating license, or nonresident operating privilege, or the privilege of an unlicensed operator to operate a vehicle shall be suspended or shall remain suspended for the required term and until the person complies with section 1209a of this title. Upon a finding in favor of the person, the commissioner shall cause the suspension to be canceled and removed from the record, without payment of any fee.

* * *

(n) Presumption. In a proceeding under this section, if ~~there was~~ at any time within two hours of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of a vehicle a person had an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person's alcohol concentration was 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person was operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title, or 0.04 or more if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision 4103(4) of this title, respectively, at the time of operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control.

* * *

(p) Suspensions to run concurrently. Suspensions imposed under this

section or any comparable statute of any other jurisdiction and sections 1206 and 1208, and 1216 of this title or any comparable statutes of any other jurisdiction, or any suspension resulting from a conviction for a violation of section 1091 of this title from the same incident, shall run concurrently and a person shall receive credit for any elapsed period of a suspension served in Vermont against a later suspension imposed in this state. In order for suspension credit to be available against a later suspension, the suspension issued under this section must appear and remain on the individual's motor vehicle record.

* * *

~~(s) A person who has received a notice of suspension under this section shall not apply for or receive a duplicate operator's license while the matter is pending. A person who violates this subsection shall be fined not more than \$500.00. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

* * * Civil and Criminal Suspensions – Same Incident * * *

Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 1216 is amended to read:

§ 1216. PERSONS UNDER 21; ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION OF 0.02
OR MORE

* * *

(i) Suspensions imposed under this section or any comparable statute of

any other jurisdiction shall run concurrently with suspensions imposed under sections 1205, 1206, and 1208 of this title or any comparable statutes of any other jurisdiction or with any suspension resulting from a conviction for a violation of section 1091 of this title from the same incident, and a person shall receive credit for any elapsed period of a suspension served in Vermont against a later suspension imposed in this state. In order for suspension credit to be available against a later suspension, the suspension issued under this section must appear and remain on the individual's motor vehicle record.

* * * Prohibition on Reaffixing Inspection Stickers * * *

Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 1223 is amended to read:

§ 1223. PROHIBITIONS

A person shall not affix or cause to be affixed to a motor vehicle, trailer₂ or semi-trailer a certification of inspection that was not assigned by an official inspection station to such motor vehicle, trailer₂ or semi-trailer. No person shall reaffix or cause to be reaffixed an official sticker once removed; instead, replacement stickers shall be affixed as prescribed by the rules for replacement sticker agents. A person shall not knowingly operate a motor vehicle, trailer₂ or semi-trailer to which a certification of inspection is affixed if the certification of inspection was not assigned by an official station to that vehicle, trailer₂ or semi-trailer.

* * * Titling Exemptions * * *

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

§ 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

No certificate of title need be obtained for:

* * *

(6) A motorcycle which has less than 300 cubic centimeters of engine displacement or a motorcycle powered by electricity with less than 20 kilowatts of engine power;

* * *

Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 3807 is amended to read:

§ 3807. EXEMPTED VESSELS, SNOWMOBILES, AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

No certificate of title need be obtained for:

(1) any vessel under 16 feet in length;

(2) any snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle of a model year prior to 2004

or that is more than 15 years old;

* * *

* * * Satisfaction and Release of Security Interests * * *

Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 2023 is amended to read:

§ 2023. TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN VEHICLE

(a) ~~¶~~ If an owner transfers his or her interest in a vehicle, other than by the

creation of a security interest, he or she shall, at the time of delivery of the vehicle, execute an assignment and warranty of title to the transferee in the space provided therefor on the certificate or as the commissioner prescribes, and of the odometer reading or hubometer reading or clock meter reading of the vehicle at the time of delivery in the space provided therefor on the certificate, and cause the certificate and assignment to be mailed or delivered to the transferee or to the commissioner. Where title to a vehicle is in the name of more than one person, the nature of the ownership must be indicated by one of the following on the certificate of title:

- (1) TEN ENT (tenants by the entirety);
- (2) JTEN (joint tenants);
- (3) TEN COM (tenants in common);
- (4) PTNRS (partners); or
- (5) TOD (transfer on death).

(b) Upon request of the owner or transferee, a lienholder in possession of the certificate of title shall, unless the transfer was a breach of his or her security agreement, either deliver the certificate to the transferee for delivery to the commissioner or, upon receipt of notice from the transferee of the owner's assignment, the transferee's application for a new certificate, and the required fee, mail or deliver ~~them~~ the certificate, application, and fee to the commissioner. The delivery of the certificate does not affect the rights of the

lienholder under his or her security agreement. If a dealer accepts a vehicle with a preexisting security interest as part of the consideration for a sale or trade from the dealer, the dealer shall mail or otherwise tender payment to satisfy the security interest within five days of the sale or trade.

* * *

(e) Notwithstanding other provisions of the law, whenever the estate of an individual who dies intestate consists principally of an automobile, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the motor vehicle and title to the same shall automatically and by virtue hereof pass to said surviving spouse. Registration and titling of the vehicle in the name of the surviving spouse shall be effected by payment of a transfer fee of \$7.00. This transaction is exempt from the provisions of the purchase and use tax on motor vehicles.

(1) Notwithstanding other provisions of the law, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, whenever the estate of an individual consists in whole or in part of a motor vehicle, and the person's will or other testamentary document does not specifically address disposition of motor vehicles, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the motor vehicle and title to the motor vehicle shall automatically pass to the surviving spouse. Registration and ~~title~~ titling of the motor vehicle in the name of the surviving spouse shall be effected by payment of a transfer fee of \$7.00. This transaction is exempt from the provisions of the purchase and use tax on motor

vehicles.

(2) This subsection shall apply to no more than two motor vehicles, and shall not apply if the motor vehicle is titled in the name of one or more persons other than the decedent and the surviving spouse.

* * *

Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 2045 is amended to read:

§ 2045. RELEASE OF SECURITY INTEREST

(a) Upon ~~the~~ satisfaction of a security interest in a vehicle for which the lienholder possesses the certificate of title ~~is in the possession of the lienholder, he or she the lienholder~~ shall, within ~~40~~ 12 business days after ~~demand and, in any event, within 30 days,~~ a request for release of the security interest, fully execute a release of ~~his or her~~ the security interest, in the space provided therefor on the certificate or as in the form the commissioner prescribes, and mail or deliver the certificate and release to the next lienholder named therein, or, if none, to the owner or any person ~~who delivers to the lienholder an authorization from~~ authorized by the owner to receive the certificate (hereafter, "owner's designee"). The owner or the owner's designee, other than a dealer holding the vehicle for resale, shall promptly cause the certificate and release to be mailed or delivered to the commissioner, who shall release the lienholder's rights on the certificate or issue a new certificate.

(b) Upon ~~the~~ satisfaction of a the security interest ~~in a vehicle for which of~~

a subordinate lienholder who does not possess the certificate of title is in the possession of a prior lienholder, the subordinate lienholder whose security interest is satisfied shall, within 10 12 business days after demand and, in any event, within 30 days, a request for release of the security interest, fully execute a release in the form the commissioner prescribes and deliver the release to the owner or any person who delivers to the lienholder an authorization from the owner to receive it owner's designee. The lienholder in possession of the certificate of title shall either deliver the certificate to the owner, or the person authorized by him, owner's designee for delivery to the commissioner or, upon receipt of if the lienholder in possession receives the release, mail or deliver it with the certificate to the commissioner, who shall release the subordinate lienholder's rights on the certificate or issue a new certificate. A subordinate lienholder whose security interest is fully satisfied but receives the certificate of title pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall, within three business days of its receipt, mail or deliver the title to the owner or the owner's designee.

(c) For purposes of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a release not sent by electronic means is deemed fully executed when it is completed and placed in the United States mail postage prepaid or delivered to the person requesting the release as shown on the form so requesting it.

(d) A lienholder that fails to satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) or

(b) of this section shall, upon written demand sent by certified mail, be liable to pay the owner or the owner's designee \$25.00 per day for each day that the requirements of subsection (a) or (b) remain unsatisfied, up to a maximum of \$2,500.00, in addition to any other remedies that may be available at law or equity. If the lienholder fails to pay the amount owed under this subsection within 60 days following the written demand, the owner or the owner's designee may bring a civil action and, if the lienholder is found to have violated subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the amount owed under this subsection shall be trebled, resulting in an award of up to \$7,500.00, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs shall be awarded.

* * * Title-related Offenses * * *

Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 2083 is amended to read:

§ 2083. OTHER OFFENSES

(a) A person who:

(1) ~~With fraudulent intent, permits another, who~~ Knowing that another person is not entitled, to use or have possession of possess a certificate of title, knowingly permits that person to use or possess the certificate, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subdivision (5) of this subsection;

(2) ~~Willfully~~ Knowingly fails to mail or deliver a certificate of title or application for a certificate of title to the commissioner within 20 days after the transfer or creation or satisfaction of a security interest shall be subject to the

penalties prescribed in subdivision (5) of this subsection;

(3) ~~Willfully~~ Knowingly fails to deliver to his or her transferee a certificate of title within 20 days after the transfer shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subdivision (5) of this subsection;

(4) ~~Willfully~~ Knowingly and without authority signs a name other than his or her own on any title, ~~or inaccurately states or~~ knowingly alters or inaccurately states the chain of ownership or other information required on any title, or knowingly fails to return a certificate of title that has been fraudulently made, or knowingly has unauthorized possession of blank certificates of title or manufacturer's certificates of origin, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subdivision (5) of this subsection;

(5) ~~Willfully~~ Knowingly violates any provision of this chapter, except as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection or section 2082 of this title, shall be fined not more than \$2,000.00, or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both; or

(6) ~~Willfully~~ Knowingly represents as his or her own, or sells or transfers a motor vehicle or vessel ~~on~~ to which he or she does not hold legal title ~~to~~ or is not authorized ~~to sell or transfer the vehicle or vessel~~ by the titleholder to sell or transfer shall be fined not more than \$5,000.00, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both, for each offense.

(b) ~~A~~ Absent a showing of a knowing failure to deliver as provided in

subdivision (a)(3) of this section, a person shall not willfully fail who fails to
deliver to his or her transferee a certificate of title within 10 days after the
transfer. ~~A person who violates this subsection~~ commits a traffic violation and
shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00.

* * * Taxable Cost Definition * * *

Sec. 16. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

§ 8902. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly provided, the words and phrases used in this
chapter shall be construed to mean:

* * *

(5) “Taxable cost” means the purchase price as defined in subdivision
(4) of this section or the taxable cost as determined under section 8907 of this
title. For any purchaser who has paid tax on the purchase or use of a motor
vehicle that was sold or traded by the purchaser or for which the purchaser
received payment under a contract of insurance, the taxable cost of the
replacement motor vehicle other than a leased vehicle shall exclude:

* * *

(B) the amount received from the sale of a motor vehicle last
registered in his or her name, the amount not to exceed the average book value
of the same make, type, model, and year of manufacture as designated by the
manufacturer and as shown in the Official Used Car Guide, National

Automobile Dealers Association (New England edition), or any comparable publication, provided such sale occurs within three months of the taxable purchase. However, this three-month period shall be extended day-for-day for any time that a member of a guard unit or of the United States Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), spends outside Vermont due to activation or deployment, and an additional 60 days following the person's return from activation or deployment. Such amount shall be reported on forms supplied by the commissioner of motor vehicles;

* * *

* * * Repeal of Zone Registration * * *

Sec. 17. REPEAL

23 V.S.A. § 412a (zone registration) is repealed.

* * * Renewal Notice for Nondriver Identification Cards * * *

Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

§ 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

(a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the commissioner and be issued an identification card which is attested by the commissioner as to true name, correct age, and any other identifying data as the commissioner may require which shall include, in the case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and

shall contain such evidence of age and identity as the commissioner may require. The commissioner shall require payment of a fee of \$17.00 at the time application for an identification card is made.

(b) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, on the fourth birthday of the applicant following the date of original issue, and may be renewed every four years upon payment of a \$20.00 fee. At least 30 days before an identification card will expire, the commissioner shall mail first class to the cardholder an application to renew the identification card.

* * *

* * * Record Retention and Record Formats * * *

Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 102(c) is amended to read:

(c) ~~The original records enumerated in subsection (a) of this section shall be maintained for two years and may thereafter be maintained on microfilm or by electronic imaging. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 2027(c) is amended to read:

(c) The commissioner shall file and retain for five years every surrendered certificate of title, the file to be maintained so as to permit the tracing of title of the vehicle designated therein. ~~The original records shall be maintained for two years and may thereafter be maintained on microfilm.~~

Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 3810(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) The commissioner shall maintain at his or her central office, a record

of all certificates of title issued by him or her:

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

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

(C) alphabetically, under the name of the owner; and, in the discretion of the commissioner, by any other method he or she determines.

(2) ~~The original records may be maintained on microfilm.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 3820(c) is amended to read:

(c) The commissioner shall file and retain every surrendered certificate of title for five years. The file shall be maintained so as to permit the tracing of title of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle designated. ~~The records may be maintained on microfilm.~~

* * * Ignition Interlock Restricted Driver's Licenses; Fees * * *

Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 1213(a), (b), and (c) are added to read:

(a) First offense. A person whose license or privilege to operate is suspended for a first offense under this subchapter shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle, other than a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 4103 of this title, if issued a valid ignition interlock RDL. The commissioner shall issue an ignition interlock RDL to a person eligible under section 1205(a)(2), 1206(a), or 1216(a)(1) of this title upon receipt of a \$125.00

application fee, and upon receipt of satisfactory proof of installation of an approved ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle to be operated, financial responsibility as provided in section 801 of this title, and enrollment in an alcohol and driving education program. The RDL shall be valid after expiration of the applicable shortened period specified in section 1205(a)(2), 1206(a), or 1216(a)(1) of this title. An ignition interlock RDL shall expire upon reinstatement of a person's regular license or privilege to operate or shall expire unless renewed yearly. The commissioner shall send by first class mail an application for renewal of the RDL at least 30 days prior to the day renewal is required and shall impose the same conditions for renewal as are required for initial issuance of an ignition interlock RDL. The renewal fee shall be \$125.00.

(b) Second offense. A person whose license or privilege to operate is suspended for a second offense under this subchapter shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle, other than a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 4103 of this title, if issued a valid ignition interlock RDL. The commissioner shall issue an ignition interlock RDL to a person eligible under section 1205(m), 1208(a), or 1216(a)(2) of this title upon receipt of a \$125.00 application fee, and upon receipt of satisfactory proof of installation of an approved ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle to be operated, financial responsibility as provided in section 801 of this title, and enrollment

in an alcohol and driving rehabilitation program. The RDL shall be valid after expiration of the applicable shortened period specified in section 1205(m), 1208(a), or 1216(a)(2) of this title. An ignition interlock RDL shall expire upon reinstatement of a person's regular license or privilege to operate or shall expire unless renewed yearly. The commissioner shall send by first class mail an application for renewal of the RDL at least 30 days prior to the day renewal is required and shall impose the same conditions for renewal as are required for initial issuance of an ignition interlock RDL. The renewal fee shall be \$125.00.

(c) Third or subsequent offense. A person whose license or privilege to operate is suspended or revoked for a third or subsequent offense under this subchapter shall be permitted to operate a motor vehicle, other than a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 4103 of this title, if issued a valid ignition interlock RDL. The commissioner shall issue an ignition interlock RDL to a person eligible under section 1205(m), 1208(b), or 1216(a)(2) of this title upon receipt of a \$125.00 application fee, and upon receipt of satisfactory proof of installation of an approved ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle to be operated, financial responsibility as provided in section 801 of this title, and enrollment in an alcohol and driving rehabilitation program. The RDL shall be valid after expiration of the applicable shortened period specified in section 1205(m), 1208(b), or

1216(a)(2) of this title. An ignition interlock RDL shall expire upon reinstatement of a person's regular license or privilege to operate or shall expire unless renewed yearly. The commissioner shall send by first class mail an application for renewal of the RDL at least 30 days prior to the day renewal is required and shall impose the same conditions for renewal as are required for initial issuance of an ignition interlock RDL. The renewal fee shall be \$125.00.

Sec. 24. REPEAL

23 V.S.A. § 1213(a), (b), and (c) within Sec. 9 of No. 126 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) are repealed.

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 16 (taxable cost definition) of this act shall take effect on passage. Sec. 16 shall apply retroactively to October 1, 2009.

(b) Sec. 24 (repeal of ignition interlock subsections (a)–(c)) shall take effect on June 30, 2011.

(c) Sec. 5 (foreign citizen licenses) shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

(d) Secs. 8 (DUI civil suspension) and 9 (under age 21 civil violation) shall take effect on July 2, 2011.

(e) Sec. 18 (nondriver identification renewal) shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

(f) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

Approved: May 24, 2011