

S.67

An act relating to motor vehicles

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 308 is amended to read:

§ 308. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION

(a) The commissioner may suspend or revoke the registration of any motor vehicle, registered in this state, and repossess the number plates assigned to it, when he or she is satisfied that:

(1) ~~Such~~ The vehicle has been stolen and that the registrant ~~thereof has~~ ~~no~~ does not have legal title ~~thereto~~; ~~or~~

(2) ~~Such~~ The vehicle is in such poor mechanical condition as to make its operation and use a menace or danger; ~~or~~

(3) ~~Such~~ The vehicle is operated without proper equipment after the owner ~~thereof~~ has been notified to procure and use such equipment as is required by law or department ~~regulations~~ rules; ~~or~~

(4) The owner of ~~such~~ the motor vehicle has perpetrated some fraud upon the motor vehicle department; ~~or~~

(5) The owner of ~~such~~ the motor vehicle is an habitual user of intoxicating liquor to excess; ~~or~~

(6) The number plates were erroneously issued; ~~or~~

(7) Suspension or revocation is authorized under any other provision of law; or

(8) The commercial motor carrier responsible for safety of the vehicle has been prohibited from operating by a federal agency.

(b) The commissioner shall deny registration if the applicant fails to disclose material information required, or if the applicant has made a materially false statement on the application, or if the applicant's business is operated, managed, or otherwise controlled or affiliated with a person who is ineligible for registration, including the applicant entity, a relative, family member, corporate officer, or shareholder. A person whose privilege to operate has been suspended in accordance with subsections 3009(b) or 3103(b) of this title or section 110 of this title where the payments were due pursuant to sections 3015 or 3106 of this title shall be ineligible for registration. The department shall deny registration for a vehicle that has been assigned for safety to a commercial motor carrier who has been prohibited from operating by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration or a carrier whose business is operated, managed, or otherwise controlled or affiliated with a person who is ineligible for registration, including the owner, a relative, family member, corporate officer, or shareholder.

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1016 is amended to read:

§ 1016. REPORTS OF ARREST

Law enforcement officers who make arrests or issue citations for violations of this title, ~~or who investigate motor vehicle accidents,~~ shall forward a written report on forms prescribed and furnished by the commissioners of motor vehicles and public safety and approved by the attorney general with respect to any matter affecting the substantive rights of any person, to the department of motor vehicles within ~~thirty~~ 30 days after the arrest is made ~~;~~ or the citation is issued ~~or the accident is investigated.~~

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1256 is amended to read:

§ 1256. MOTORCYCLES—HEADGEAR

~~No~~ A person may not operate or ride upon a motorcycle upon a highway unless he or she properly wears ~~upon his or her head~~ protective headgear ~~reflectorized in part and of a type approved by the commissioner. The headgear shall be equipped with either a neck or chin strap that conforms to the federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards contained in 49 C.F.R. part 571.218 and any amendment or addition to the regulations that may be adopted by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.~~

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 1603a is amended to read:

§ 1603a. REPORTS OF ACCIDENTS ~~INVOLVING COMMERCIAL~~
~~MOTOR VEHICLES~~

(a) All accidents involving a commercial motor vehicle or any vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard shall be reported to the ~~department of motor vehicles~~ agency of transportation by appropriate law enforcement personnel on forms and in a manner prescribed by the ~~commissioner~~ secretary of transportation.

(b) Law enforcement officers who investigate motor vehicle accidents other than those involving vehicles described in subsection (a) of this section shall forward a report to the agency of transportation within 30 days after the accident is investigated on forms prescribed and furnished by the secretary of transportation, and approved by the attorney general with respect to any matter affecting the substantive rights of any person.

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 1603b is added to read:

§ 1603b. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION REPOSITORY FOR

ACCIDENT REPORTS FILED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT;

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES REPOSITORY FOR

OPERATOR ACCIDENT REPORTS

The agency of transportation shall be the accident data repository for reports submitted by law enforcement agencies in the state. The department of motor vehicles shall be the repository agency for all operator accident reports.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2083 is amended to read:

§ 2083. OTHER OFFENSES

(a) A person who:

- (1) With fraudulent intent, permits another, who is not entitled ~~thereto~~, to use or have possession of a certificate of title;
- (2) Willfully fails to mail or deliver a certificate of title or application ~~therefor~~ for a certificate of title to the commissioner within ~~40~~ 20 days after the transfer or creation or satisfaction of a security interest;
- (3) Willfully fails to deliver to his or her transferee a certificate of title within ~~40~~ 20 days after the transfer;
- (4) Willfully and without authority signs a name other than his or her own on any title or inaccurately states or alters the chain of ownership or other information required on any title, or fails to return a certificate of title that has

been fraudulently made, or has unauthorized possession of blank certificates of title or manufacturer's certificates of origin;

(5) Willfully violates any provision of this chapter, except as provided in subdivision ~~(5)~~(6) of this section 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 represents as his or her own, or sells a motor vehicle or vessel on 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 shall be fined not more than \$5,000.00, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both, for each offense.

(b) A person shall not willfully fail 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.

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 3833 is added to read:

§ 3833. DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF VESSELS,

SNOWMOBILES, OR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

(a) Except for vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles for which no certificate of title is required pursuant to section 3807 of this title, any person who purchases or in any manner acquires a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain

vehicle as salvage who scraps, dismantles, or destroys a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle or any insurance company or representative of an insurance company who declares a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle to be a total loss shall make application for a salvage certificate of title within 15 days of the time the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle is purchased or otherwise acquired as salvage, scrapped, dismantled, or destroyed, or declared a total loss. The application shall be accompanied by:

(1) any certificate of title; and

(2) any other information or documents that the commissioner may reasonably require to establish ownership of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, and the existence or nonexistence of any security interest in the vessel, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.

(b) When a vessel, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle is destroyed by crushing for scrap, the person causing the destruction shall immediately mail or deliver to the commissioner the certificate of title, if any, endorsed "crushed" and signed by the person, accompanied by the original plate showing the original identification number. The plate shall not be removed until such time as the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle is crushed.

(c) This section shall not apply to, and salvage certificates shall not be required for, unrecovered stolen vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles or vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles stolen and recovered in an

undamaged condition, provided that the original vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle identification number plate has not been removed, altered, or destroyed, and the number on the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle is identical with that on the original title certificate.

Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 3834 is added to read:

§ 3834. ISSUANCE OF SALVAGE TITLE

The commissioner shall file and maintain in the manner provided in section 3010 of this title each application received and when satisfied as to its genuineness and regularity and that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a salvage certificate of title, shall issue a salvage certificate of title to the vessel, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.

Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 3835 is added to read:

§ 3835. SALVAGED, TOTALED, AND REBUILT VESSELS,
SNOWMOBILES, OR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

(a) If a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle upon which a salvage certificate of title, a parts-only certificate, or other document indicating the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle is not sold for reregistration purposes has been or should have been issued by the commissioner, or by any other jurisdiction or person or both, a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle that has been declared totaled is rebuilt and restored for operation, the owner shall not apply for a certificate of title or registration, and none shall be issued until

the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle has been inspected by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative. The inspection of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the commissioner and shall include verification of the identification number and bills of sale or titles for major component parts used to rebuild the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle. When necessary, a new identification number shall be attached to the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle as provided by section 2003 of this title. Any new title issued for these vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles shall contain the legend "rebuilt vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle."

(b) Any person who sells, trades, or offers for sale or trade to a prospective purchaser any interest in a salvaged, salvaged and rebuilt, or totaled vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle shall disclose the fact that the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle has been salvaged, salvaged and rebuilt, or totaled both orally and in writing before a sale, trade, or transfer is made. Written disclosure that the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle has been salvaged, salvaged and rebuilt, or totaled, in addition to being disclosed on the certificate of title as required by this subchapter, shall also be conspicuously disclosed on any bill of sale, transfer, purchase, or other agreement.

(c) Failure of the seller to provide the notices required by this section shall result in the seller being required, at the option of the buyer, to refund to the

buyer the purchase price, including taxes, license fees, and similar governmental charges.

Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 3836 is added to read:

§ 3836. RECORDS; INSPECTION

(a) Each person who purchases or in any manner acquires a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle as salvage shall keep and maintain for a period of not less than five years such records as may be prescribed by the commissioner which are reasonably necessary to substantiate the information contained in the application required by sections 3840 and 3842 of this title. These records shall include, but are not limited to, parts and accessories obtained and used for the repair or rebuilding, or both, of a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, and such financial records that will allow the commissioner to determine if the person qualifies to become or remain licensed as a “salvage dealer.”

(b) The commissioner, or his or her agents, may inspect and examine the books, records, premises, and vehicles on the premises of any salvage dealer during the usual business hours of the day to verify the truth and accuracy of any information furnished in connection with the provisions of sections 3833 and this section of this chapter.

(c) Any salvage dealer who in any manner receives a vessel, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle which does not have a plate attached to the vessel,

snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle bearing the vehicle identification number shall notify the commissioner in writing that such a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle has been received within seven days.

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 3837 is added to read:

§ 3837. PENALTY

(a) A person who violates any provision of section 3836 of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$500.00 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(b) A person who violates section 3833 or 3835 of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 3801(22), (23), (24), and (25) are added to read:

(22) “Salvage dealer” means any person who, in a single year, purchases or in any manner acquires at a minimum three vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles as salvage or who scraps, dismantles, or destroys at a minimum three vessels, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles in a single year.

(23) “Rebuilt vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle” means a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle upon which a salvage certificate of title, parts-only certificate, or other document indicating the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle is not sold for reregistration purposes, has been issued and which has been rebuilt and restored for operation.

(24) “Salvaged vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle” means a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle which has been scrapped, dismantled, destroyed, or declared a total loss by an insurance company.

(25) “Totaled vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle” means a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle which has been declared a total loss by an insurance company.

Sec. 13. SUPERSESSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Sec. 3 of this act (23 V.S.A. § 1256) shall supersede the administrative rule adopted by the commissioner of motor vehicles titled “Motorcycle Protective Headgear.”