
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 71 (S.127). Motor vehicles; taxation and fees; judiciary; transportation

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and vessels

This act:

- License Plates and Placards for Persons with Disabilities. Establishes a civil penalty of not less than \$400.00 if a person parks in a space reserved for persons with disabilities and displays a special plate or placard for persons with disabilities that was not issued to him or her, unless the person is authorized by law to do so.
- Allocation of Fees for Special License Plates. Converts from fixed dollar amounts to percentages the allocation of special license plate proceeds into various funds.
- Annual Special Excess Weight Permits. Eliminates a provision that requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to prorate fees for annual special excess weight permits to coincide with registration expiration dates.
- Temporary Registrations. Requires payment of a title fee in order to be eligible for a temporary registration, and directs that the title fee be deemed the fee for the vehicle's title, if one is issued, or be applied toward an application to title another vehicle.
- Registration Transfers. Increases from 30 days to 60 days the period within which a motor vehicle may lawfully be operated with registration plates lawfully transferred from another vehicle.
- Registration; Local Transit Buses. Extends from 10 miles to 100 miles the range within which a motor bus used in public transit may operate beyond the boundaries of a city or town and still qualify for a reduced registration fee.
- Exhibition Vehicles. Authorizes the registrant of an exhibition vehicle to use the vehicle for occasional transportation of passengers or property not more than one day per week, in addition to existing authorized uses for exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other public interest functions.
- Licenses and Permits to Operate; Refusals to Issue. Prohibits the Commissioner of DMV from issuing a Vermont license to a person whose

privilege to operate a motor vehicle is suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction.

- Learner's Permits. Expands the list of persons whose presence seated beside the holder of a learner's permit would make the holder's operation of a motor vehicle lawful, and imposes a penalty on such persons who, while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, ride beside the permit holder.
- Prohibition on Handheld Use of a Portable Electronic Device while Driving. Amends provisions related to points assessed against a person's driving record if convicted of violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving.
- DUI; Total Abstinence Program; Ignition Interlock Devices. Removes the use of regulated prescription drugs as a disqualification for restoration of a person's driving privilege under the Total Abstinence Program, as long as the person used the prescription drug in a manner consistent with the prescription label; prescribes minimum average periods between random retests of persons operating a motor vehicle under an ignition interlock restricted driver's license; and eliminates a provision related to ignition interlock devices equipped with a GPS feature.
- Length of Vehicles. Repeals provisions regarding erecting signs related to operation of vehicles more than 68 feet long and requiring the Commissioner of DMV to prepare a list of highways on which vehicles issued overlength permits may be operated.
- Vessels, Snowmobiles, and ATVs; Transfer of Title. Eliminates the \$2.00 fee to transfer the title and registration to a vessel, snowmobile, or ATV to a surviving spouse.
- Snowmobile and Boating Violations; Jurisdiction. Repeals a chapter of law providing for the enforcement of snowmobile and boating violations in Superior Court, makes related conforming changes, and reenacts language from the repealed chapter related to evidence of navigation or snowmobile control signs, signals, and markings.
- Motor Vehicle Purchase and Use Tax. Provides that the three-month limitation on the period in which to reduce the taxable cost of a motor vehicle by the sale of a previously owned vehicle shall not apply to vehicles sold to the manufacturer pursuant to a buyback agreement under a Volkswagen, Audi, or Porsche diesel engine defeat device settlement or judgment, if the vehicle is sold to the manufacturer within specified time periods. This act also updates

terminology related to values in the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Official Used Car Guide.

- Vermont Strong License Plates. Removes any end date from the law that authorizes certain motor vehicles registered in Vermont to display Vermont Strong plates that cover a regular front license plate.
- License Plate Savings. Directs the Commissioner of DMV to identify opportunities to save money on the production and acquisition of license plates and to estimate savings that would result from eliminating the requirement to display front license plates for most vehicles registered in Vermont.
- Incident Clearance. Provides that clearance of a crash scene may be delayed until the crash investigation is completed in the case of a crash involving a serious bodily injury or fatality. With regard to provisions of law that authorize the removal of vehicles and cargo from highways under specified circumstances, this act also: specifies that a towing operator may only undertake to remove a vehicle or cargo if summoned by a vehicle owner or operator or an enforcement officer and that, subject to certain exceptions, the vehicle owner or operator has the right to choose the towing operator and designate the location to where the vehicle or cargo is to be removed; provides that a vehicle owner and a motor carrier, if any, are responsible for reasonable costs incurred in the removal and subsequent disposition of a vehicle or cargo; limits the liability of a person for damage incurred during the removal of a motor vehicle or cargo from a highway, if the removal involved a vehicle or cargo that was obstructing traffic or maintenance activities or creating a hazard to traffic; and directs that, with certain exceptions, the operator of a vehicle involved in a crash who stops at the crash scene must move and stop the vehicle at the nearest location where the vehicle will not impede traffic or jeopardize the safety of a person.
- Mail Carrier Vehicles. Provides that a vehicle used as a mail carrier under a contract with the U.S. Postal Service will not fail inspection solely because, in converting the vehicle to right-hand drive, the right front airbag has been removed or disconnected.
- Motorboat Lighting, Safety Equipment. Amends a provision regarding lighting required on motorboats 26 feet or longer between sunset and sunrise. This act also codifies a requirement that motorboats operated on waters subject to federal jurisdiction have lights and other safety equipment required by U.S. Coast Guard rules and regulations and creates a penalty for a violation of this requirement.

- Educational Resource; Injury Prevention. Directs the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioners of Fish and Wildlife and of Forests, Parks and Recreation, to develop an educational resource for property owners related to the prevention of injuries arising from recreational use of property.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 8, 2017.