
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. 149 (S.339). Motor vehicles; transportation; public records

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles

This act:

- Nondriver Identification Cards. Adds a new subsection (m) to 23 V.S.A. § 115 establishing a fee of \$0.00 for a nondriver identification card issued to “[a]n individual sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six months or more committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections”
- Electronic In-Transit Permit. Adds a new section, 23 V.S.A. § 518, creating an electronic in-transit permit to be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and available for inter- and intrastate transit when the applicant purchases the motor vehicle from someone other than a registered motor vehicle dealer.
- U.S. Armed Forces License Extensions. Expands the license extension for members of the U.S. Armed Forces to also apply for an immediate family member of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is out of State because of service in the U.S. Armed Forces or the Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Waiver of Examination. Expands, from one year to three years, the length of time that a chauffeur’s or operator’s license from a jurisdiction other than Vermont can be expired and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (Commissioner) still have the discretion to waive the required examination.
- Suspensions. Adds a new subsection (g) to 23 V.S.A. § 671 establishing that if the Commissioner receives official notice that an individual’s right to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction, the Commissioner may suspend the individual’s license or right to operate in Vermont after the opportunity for a hearing.
- Waiver of Reinstatement Fee. Authorizes the Judicial Bureau hearing officer to waive the reinstatement fee required pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 675(a) in certain circumstances.
- School Buses. Changes when school buses need to be inspected and the permissible and required colors of school buses.

- Exempt Vehicle Title. Makes an exempt vehicle title available when a motor vehicle is more than 15, as opposed to 25, years old.
- Weight and Length Restrictions. Adds additional exceptions for heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicles and towaway trailer transporter combinations and makes additional changes regarding commercial motor vehicle weights.
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Operations. Adds a definition for “mail” and utilizes the definition in 23 V.S.A. chapters 27, 28, and 35; modifies the process of issuing credits and refunds for diesel tax and apportioned registration fees; and reorganizes the section on disqualification of a commercial driver’s license to be appropriately grouped and adds a new basis for a disqualification for life (a felony involving an act or practice of severe forms of trafficking in persons involving a motor vehicle).
- Snowmobiles. Permits proof of snowmobile education certificate to be shown with a copy, which can be shown on a portable electronic device; and corrects references to fines that are civil penalties and an incorrect internal citation.
- All-Terrain Vehicles. Modifies the definition of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) to have a maximum dry weight of up to 2,500 pounds as opposed to 1,700 pounds.
- Online Permitting System. Authorizes the Commissioner to initiate the design and development of a centralized online permitting system for weight and length permits issued by the Agency of Transportation with the capability of expanding the system for weight and length permits issued by municipalities.
- Permitting Report. Requires the Agency of Transportation to study and report on safety or financial implications to infrastructure if certain permits are not required.
- Public Records Request Report. Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to prepare a report on the release of personal information pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 104 and 114.
- Lighted STOP/SLOW Paddles. Requires the Agency of Transportation to conduct a pilot program on the use of lighted STOP/SLOW paddles and prepare a report on the same.
- Speeding in a School Zone. Adds a new section, 23 V.S.A. § 1017, doubling the civil penalty for violating a speed limit in a school zone.
- Use of Handheld Devices. Doubles the civil penalties for violating the use of handheld devices statutes, 23 V.S.A. §§ 1095a and 1095b, in a school or work zone.

- Texting. Doubles the civil penalties for violating the texting prohibited statute, 23 V.S.A. § 1099, and modifies the point assessments to include gradation based on location and number of convictions.
- Move Over Law. Specifies that, if safety conditions permit, an operator approaching certain stationary vehicles should make a lane change to a lane farther away from the stationary vehicle and requires that if an operator must remain in the lane adjacent to the stationary vehicle the operator shall slow down to a reasonable, safe, and prudent speed given the safety conditions; requires an operator who approaches a work zone to proceed with caution and slow down to a reasonable, safe, and prudent speed given the safety conditions and make a lane change away from workers if they are only present on one side of the highway and it is safe to make such a lane change.
- Railroad Crossings. Adds a new subdivision (86) to 23 V.S.A. § 4 defining “on-track equipment” and expands railroad crossing laws regarding railroad trains to also apply to other on-track equipment.
- Sunsets. Extends sunsets for certain municipal regulations of transportation network companies and regulations of automated license plate recognition systems an additional two years and repeals the sunset of an inspection exemption for vehicles used for the U.S. Postal Service.
- Translated Documents and Use of Interpreters. Extends the time when the Department of Motor Vehicles shall have certain documents translated and allow the use of interpreters for certain testing to October 1, 2020 from July 1, 2020.
- Learner’s Permits. Allows a learner’s permit to be issued without a photograph.

Multiple effective dates, beginning retroactively on June 1, 2020