

1 Introduced by Committee on Transportation

2 Date:

3 Subject: Motor vehicles; Driver’s Privacy Protection Act; public records;

4 exhibition vehicles; antique vehicles; annual inspection; reinstatement

5 fee; U.S. Armed Forces; electronic notice; commercial vehicle

6 operations; commercial vehicle credits and refunds; in-transit

7 registration permits; suspensions; commercial driver’s license

8 disqualifications; school bus inspections; school buses; nondriver

9 identification cards; operator’s license examination; commercial

10 vehicles; weight and length permits; snowmobiles; all-terrain

11 vehicles; ATVs

12 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make

13 miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

14 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles

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

16 \* \* \* Issuance of Nondriver Identification Cards

17 to Vermonters Released from Incarceration \* \* \*

18 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

19 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

1           (a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and  
2           be issued an identification card ~~which~~ that is attested by the Commissioner as  
3           to true name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another  
4           address is requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and  
5           any other identifying data as the Commissioner may require which shall  
6           include, in the case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant’s  
7           parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis. Every application  
8           for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain  
9           such evidence of age and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent  
10          with subsection (1) of this section. New and renewal application forms shall  
11          include a space for the applicant to request that a “veteran” designation by  
12          placed on his or her identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C.  
13          § 101(2), requests a veteran designation and provides a Department of Defense  
14          Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and  
15          the Office of Veterans Affairs confirms his or her status as an honorably  
16          discharged veteran or a veteran discharged under honorable conditions, the  
17          identification card shall include the term “veteran” on its face. The  
18          Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of \$24.00 at the time application  
19          for an identification card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification  
20          card shall be issued at no charge to ~~a person~~ an individual who surrenders his

1 or her license in connection with a suspension or revocation under subsection  
2 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental condition.

3 (b) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at  
4 midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the  
5 cardholder following the date of original issue, and may be renewed every four  
6 years upon payment of a \$24.00 fee. A renewed identification card shall  
7 expire, unless earlier canceled, at midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary  
8 of the date of birth of the cardholder following the expiration of the card being  
9 renewed. At least 30 days before an identification card will expire, the  
10 Commissioner shall mail first class to the cardholder or send the cardholder  
11 electronically an application to renew the identification card; a cardholder shall  
12 be sent the renewal notice by mail unless the cardholder opts in to receive  
13 electronic notification. ~~A person~~ An individual born on February 29 shall, for  
14 the purposes of this section, be considered as born on March 1.

15 \* \* \*

16 (g) An identification card issued to a first-time applicant and any  
17 subsequent renewals by that person shall contain a photograph or imaged  
18 likeness of the applicant. The photographic identification card shall be  
19 available at a location designated by the Commissioner. ~~A person~~ An  
20 individual issued an identification card under this subsection that contains an  
21 imaged likeness may renew his or her identification card by mail. Except that

1 a renewal by a ~~person~~ an individual required to have a photograph or imaged  
2 likeness under this subsection must be made in person so that an updated  
3 imaged likeness of the ~~person~~ individual is obtained no less often than once  
4 every ~~eight~~ nine years.

5 \* \* \*

6 (j) ~~Persons~~ Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social  
7 Security Disability Income and ~~persons~~ individuals with a disability as defined  
8 in 9 V.S.A. § 4501(2) shall be provided with nondriver identification cards for  
9 the following fees:

10 \* \* \*

11 (m) An individual sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six  
12 months or more committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections  
13 who is eligible for a nondriver identification card under the requirements of  
14 this section shall, upon proper application and in advance of release from a  
15 correctional facility, be provided with a nondriver identification card for a fee  
16 of \$0.00.

17 \* \* \* Electronic In-Transit Registration Permit \* \* \*

18 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

19 § 202. IMPERSONATING ANOTHER IN AN APPLICATION, OR AIDING

20 AN APPLICANT BY FALSE REPRESENTATION

1           A person who does any of the following shall be fined not more than  
2           \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both, and shall have his  
3           or her privilege to operate suspended for 90 days:

4           (1) falsely impersonates another in an application for:

5                   (A) an operator’s license; or

6                   (B) a learner’s permit, or in an application for a;

7                   (C) a nondriver identification card, or in an application for;

8                   (D) a motor vehicle registration, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, or  
9           motorboat registration, or vessel validation; or who

10                   (E) an in-transit registration permit;

11           (2) obtains a license to operate a motor vehicle by false representation,  
12           or who obtains:

13                   (A) an operator’s license;

14                   (B) a learner’s permit; or

15                   (C) a nondriver identification card by false representation, or who  
16           obtains;

17                   (D) a motor vehicle registration or a registration for any other type of  
18           vehicle or vessel by false representation, validation; or

19                   (E) an in-transit registration permit;

20           (3) who uses an assumed name or name that is not his or her own in an  
21           application for;

- 1            (A) an operator’s license;  
2            (B) a learner’s permit ~~or in an application for;~~  
3            (C) a nondriver identification card; ~~or in an application for;~~  
4            (D) a motor vehicle registration; ~~or registration for any other type~~  
5 ~~vehicle or vessel; validation; or~~  
6            (E) an in-transit registration permit; or

7            (4) who knowingly aids an applicant in obtaining by false representation  
8 as to the age or identity of such applicant; such

- 9            (A) an operator’s license;  
10           (B) a learner’s permit; ~~registration; or;~~  
11           (C) a nondriver identification card;  
12           (D) a motor vehicle registration or vessel validation; or  
13           (E) an in-transit registration permit ~~by false representation as to the~~  
14 ~~age or identity of such applicant, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or~~  
15 ~~imprisoned not more than two years, or both and shall have his or her privilege~~  
16 ~~to operate suspended for 90 days.~~

17           Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 203(a) is amended to read:

- 18           (a) A person shall not:  
19                  (1) counterfeit or cause to be counterfeited or have in his or her  
20 possession any counterfeit number plate, validating sticker, marker, inspection  
21 sticker, registration certificate, in-transit registration permit, learner’s permit,

1 nondriver identification card, insurance identification card, or operator license,  
2 or alter or have in his or her possession any altered number plate or marker;

3 (2) display or cause or permit to be displayed, or have in his or her  
4 possession, any fictitious or fraudulently altered operator license, learner's  
5 permit, nondriver identification card, inspection sticker, ~~or~~ registration  
6 certificate or in-transit registration permit, or display for any fraudulent  
7 purpose an expired or counterfeit insurance identification card or similar  
8 document;

9 \* \* \*

10 (6) obtain or attempt to obtain a registration plate, validation sticker,  
11 registration certificate, in-transit registration permit, operator's license,  
12 learner's permit, nondriver identification card, or duplicate copy of any of such  
13 documents by the use of fraudulently obtained, fictitious, or altered identity  
14 documents or by the use of identity documents not his or her own;

15 (7) obtain or attempt to obtain a registration plate, validation sticker,  
16 registration certificate, in-transit registration permit, certificate of title,  
17 operator's license, learner's permit, nondriver identification card, duplicate  
18 copy of any of these documents, or obtain or attempt to obtain any other  
19 permit, license, or special privilege from the Department of Motor Vehicles  
20 through the submission of an application containing false or fictitious  
21 information;

1           (8) lend his or her identity documents to aid an applicant in his or her  
2 attempt to fraudulently obtain or actually obtain a registration plate, validation  
3 sticker, registration certificate, in-transit registration permit, operator's license,  
4 learner's permit, nondriver identification card, or duplicate copy of such  
5 documents; or

6   \* \* \*

7           Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 518 is added to read:

8           § 518. ELECTRONIC IN-TRANSIT PERMIT

9           (a) Issuance of permit; length. The Commissioner is authorized to issue  
10 electronic in-transit registration permits for the purpose of movement over the  
11 highways of certain motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when  
12 the vehicles are sold by a person, other than a registered motor vehicle dealer,  
13 to a resident to be transported to or within and registered in this State. The  
14 electronic in-transit registration permit issued pursuant to this section shall be  
15 valid for a period of ten days from issuance and shall be in the form and design  
16 prescribed by the Commissioner.

17           (b) Form of application; fee. The registration may be obtained by  
18 submitting an application under oath on a form prescribed and furnished by the  
19 Commissioner, which shall require the applicant to attest to compliance with  
20 the provisions of section 800 of this title. The Commissioner is authorized to



1 charge a fee of \$6.00 for the processing of the application and the issuance of  
2 the electronic permit.

3 (c) Proof to be carried by operator. It shall be unlawful for any individual  
4 to drive a vehicle registered pursuant to this section unless the operator has in  
5 his or her possession a valid bill of sale for the vehicle and proof of compliance  
6 with the provisions of section 800 of this title. Notwithstanding section 511 of  
7 this title, a motor vehicle may be operated without having displayed one or two  
8 number plates if the operator has an electronic in-transit registration permit.

9 An operator may prove that he or she is in possession of an electronic in-transit  
10 registration permit for the vehicle he or she is operating using a portable  
11 electronic device; however, use of a device for this purpose does not in itself  
12 constitute consent for an enforcement officer to access other contents of the  
13 device.

14 \* \* \* Exhibition Vehicles; Inspection \* \* \*

15 Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 373 is amended to read:

16 § 373. EXHIBITION VEHICLES; ~~YEAR OF MANUFACTURE~~  
17 REGISTRATION FEE; PRE-1968 NUMBER PLATES

18 (a) The annual registration fee for ~~the registration of~~ a motor vehicle ~~which~~  
19 that is maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other  
20 functions of public interest and ~~which~~ that is not used for general daily

1 transportation of passengers or property on any highway shall be \$21.00, ~~in~~  
2 ~~lieu of fees otherwise provided by law. Permitted use shall include:~~

3 ~~(1) use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of~~  
4 ~~public interest; and~~

5 ~~(2) occasional transportation of passengers or property not more than~~  
6 ~~one day per week.~~

7 (b) ~~Pursuant to the provisions of section 304 of this title, one registration~~  
8 ~~plate shall be issued to those vehicles registered under subsection (a) of this~~  
9 ~~section. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a vehicle that is~~  
10 ~~registered as an exhibition vehicle may be used for the occasional~~  
11 ~~transportation of passengers or property. For purposes of this subsection,~~  
12 ~~“occasional” shall mean not more than one day per week.~~

13 (c) ~~Vermont registration~~ The Commissioner shall issue to the registrant of  
14 an exhibition vehicle a certificate of registration and one number plate pursuant  
15 to section 304 of this title.

16 (d) Number plates issued prior to 1968 may be displayed on a motor  
17 vehicle registered under this section ~~instead of the plate issued under this~~  
18 section, if the issued plate is provided that the number plate issued pursuant to  
19 subsection (c) of this section is maintained within the vehicle and produced  
20 upon request of any enforcement officer as defined in subdivision 4(11) of this  
21 title.

1 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 1222 is amended to read:

2 § 1222. INSPECTION OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

3 (a) Except for school buses, which shall be inspected as prescribed in  
4 section 1282 of this title, and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of  
5 this title, which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month  
6 intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall undergo a safety and  
7 visual emissions inspection once each year and all motor vehicles that are  
8 registered in this State and are 16 model years old or less shall undergo an  
9 emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection once each year as  
10 applicable. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not currently inspected  
11 in this State shall be inspected within 15 days following the date of its  
12 registration in the State of Vermont.

13 \* \* \*

14 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an  
15 exhibition vehicle of 50 model year 1940 years old or before more registered  
16 ~~as prescribed in pursuant to~~ section 373 of this title or a trailer registered as  
17 ~~prescribed in pursuant to~~ subdivision 371(a)(1)(A) of this title shall be exempt  
18 from inspection; provided, however, the vehicle must be equipped as originally  
19 manufactured, must be in good mechanical condition, and must meet the  
20 applicable standards of the inspection manual.

21 \* \* \*

1                                   \* \* \* U.S. Armed Forces License Extensions \* \* \*

2           Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 616 is amended to read:

3           § 616. EXTENSION OF LICENSE FOR MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED  
4                                   FORCES AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

5           (a) Definition. As used in this section, “immediate family member” means  
6           a child; stepchild; foster child; spouse; domestic partner, as defined in  
7           17 V.S.A. § 2414; civil union partner; parent; or parent of a spouse, domestic  
8           partner, or civil union partner.

9           (b) Members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

10           (1) A resident of Vermont who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces,  
11           and who at the time of his or her induction, ~~call on reserve commission~~ or  
12           enlistment into ~~such forces~~ the U.S. Armed Forces, or who during his or her  
13           term of service with the U.S. Armed Forces was the holder of a valid Vermont  
14           license to operate motor vehicles issued by the Commissioner, shall,  
15           notwithstanding the expiration of ~~such~~ the license, be entitled to operate a  
16           motor vehicle ~~without a new~~ with that expired license ~~therefor~~ during his or her  
17           term of service and until 30 days after receiving a discharge from the U.S.  
18           Armed Forces, ~~provided, however, that he or she shall not be so entitled for a~~  
19           ~~longer period than~~ but not to exceed four years from the date of expiration of  
20           his or her license.

1           (2) A resident of Vermont who is a member of the Reserve Component  
2           of the U.S. Armed Forces and who at the time he or she is called to active duty  
3           was the holder of a valid Vermont license to operate motor vehicles issued by  
4           the Commissioner shall, notwithstanding the expiration of such license, be  
5           entitled to operate a motor vehicle with that expired license during his or her  
6           term of active duty and until 30 days after being released from active duty, but  
7           not to exceed four years from the date of expiration of his or her license.

8           (c) Immediate family members of members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

9           (1) A resident of Vermont who is absent from the State because his or  
10           her immediate family member is serving with the U.S. Armed Forces and who  
11           had a valid Vermont license to operate motor vehicles issued by the  
12           Commissioner at the time of the immediate family member's induction or  
13           enlistment into the U.S. Armed Forces shall, notwithstanding the expiration of  
14           the license, be entitled to operate a motor vehicle with that expired license  
15           during the immediate family member's term of service and until 30 days after  
16           his or her immediate family member is discharged from the U.S. Armed  
17           Forces, but not to exceed four years from the date of expiration of his or her  
18           license.

19           (2) A resident of Vermont who is absent from the State because his or  
20           her immediate family member is a member of the Reserve Component of the  
21           U.S. Armed Forces who had a valid Vermont license to operate motor vehicles

1 issued by the Commissioner at the time of the immediate family member's call  
2 to active duty shall, notwithstanding the expiration of such license, be entitled  
3 to operate a motor vehicle with that expired license during his or her  
4 immediate family member's term of active duty and until 30 days after his or  
5 her immediate family is released from active duty, but not to exceed four years  
6 from the date of expiration of his or her license.

7 ~~(b)~~(d) Such person Proof required. Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces  
8 or immediate family member of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces operating  
9 a motor vehicle with an expired license pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) shall,  
10 while operating a motor vehicle, carry upon his or her person the last license  
11 issued to him or her and conclusive evidence that he or she is a member of the  
12 U.S. Armed Forces or the immediate family member of a member of the U.S.  
13 Armed Forces and, if the member of the U.S. Armed Forces is discharged or  
14 released from active duty, a copy of such the applicable DD-214 or similar  
15 document of discharge or release from active duty.

16 ~~(e)~~(e) Effect of revocation, suspension, or refusal. Nothing in this section  
17 shall be construed to permit ~~a person~~ an individual against whom a revocation  
18 or suspension of license has been issued or is in force, or ~~a person~~ an  
19 individual who has been refused a license by the Commissioner, to operate a  
20 motor vehicle.

1           \* \* \* Waiver of Examination for Individuals with an Expired License \* \* \*

2           Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 632(a) is amended to read:

3           (a) Before an operator’s or a junior operator’s license is issued to an  
4           applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to  
5           an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three  
6           years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory  
7           examination, except that the Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, waive  
8           the examination when the applicant holds a chauffeur’s or operator’s license in  
9           force at the time of application or within ~~one year~~ three years prior to the  
10          application in some other jurisdiction where an examination is required similar  
11          to the examination required in this State.

12   \* \* \* Suspensions \* \* \*

13          Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 671 is amended to read:

14          § 671. PROCEDURE

15          (a) In his or her discretion, the Commissioner may suspend indefinitely or  
16          for a definite time the license of an operator, or the right of an unlicensed  
17          ~~person~~ individual to operate a motor vehicle, after opportunity for a hearing  
18          upon not less than 15 days’ notice, if the Commissioner has reason to believe  
19          that the holder thereof is ~~a person~~ an individual who is incompetent to operate  
20          a motor vehicle or is operating improperly so as to endanger the public. If,  
21          upon receipt of such notice, the ~~person so notified shall request~~ individual

1 requests a hearing, such suspension shall not take effect unless the  
2 Commissioner, after hearing, determines that the suspension is justified. If the  
3 Commissioner imposes a suspension, he or she may order the license delivered  
4 to him or her. ~~Ne~~ Not less than six months from the date of suspension and  
5 each six months thereafter, ~~a person~~ an individual upon whom such suspension  
6 has been imposed may apply for reinstatement of his or her license or right to  
7 operate or for a new license. Upon receipt of such application, the  
8 Commissioner shall thereupon cause an investigation to be made and, if so  
9 requested, conduct a hearing to determine whether such suspension should be  
10 continued in effect.

11 \* \* \*

12 (c) The Commissioner ~~shall not~~ may suspend the license of an operator, or  
13 the right of an unlicensed person to operate a motor vehicle, while a  
14 prosecution for an offense under this title is pending against such person;  
15 unless if:

16 (1) ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner finds upon full reports submitted to him  
17 or her by an enforcement officer or motor vehicle inspector that the safety of  
18 the public will be imperiled by permitting such operator or such unlicensed  
19 person to operate a motor vehicle, ~~or:~~



1           (2) the Commissioner finds that such ~~person~~ operator is seeking to delay  
2 the prosecution, but if he or she so finds, he or she may suspend such license or  
3 right pending a final disposition of the prosecution; or

4           (3) such operator is found incompetent to stand trial under 13 V.S.A.  
5 § 4817.

6           (d) The Commissioner shall not suspend the license of an operator, or the  
7 right of an unlicensed ~~person~~ individual to operate a motor vehicle, for any  
8 cause ~~which~~ that has constituted the subject matter of a prosecution in which  
9 the conviction of such ~~person~~ individual has not been obtained.

10   \* \* \*

11           (g) A license suspended pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) of this section shall  
12 extend until the operator is found competent to stand trial or the criminal case  
13 is dismissed.

14           (h) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, if the Commissioner  
15 receives official notice, in any form he or she deems appropriate, that an  
16 individual's right to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended or revoked in  
17 another jurisdiction, the Commissioner may suspend the individual's license or  
18 right to operate a motor vehicle in this State after the opportunity for a hearing  
19 upon not less than 15 days' notice. If the individual's license or right to  
20 operate is subsequently reinstated by the other jurisdiction, the individual may

1 apply to the Commissioner for reinstatement of his or her license or right to  
2 operate a motor vehicle in this State.

3 \* \* \* Waiver of Reinstatement Fee \* \* \*

4 Sec. 10. 4 V.S.A. § 1109(c)(4) is amended to read:

5 (4)(A) Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in a summary manner.  
6 The hearing officer shall examine the defendant and any other witnesses and  
7 may require the defendant to produce documents relevant to the defendant's  
8 ability to pay the amount due. The State or municipality shall not be a party  
9 except with the permission of the hearing officer. The defendant may be  
10 represented by counsel at the defendant's own expense.

11 (B) Traffic violations; reduction of amount due. When the judgment  
12 is based upon a traffic violation, the hearing officer may waive the  
13 reinstatement fee required pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 675(a) or reduce the amount  
14 due on the basis of the defendant's driving history, ability to pay, or service to  
15 the community; the collateral consequences of the violation; or the interests of  
16 justice. The hearing officer's decision ~~on a motion~~ to reduce the amount due  
17 shall not be subject to review or appeal except in the case of a violation of  
18 rights guaranteed under the Vermont or U.S. Constitution.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

\* \* \* School Buses; Inspection \* \* \*

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 1282 is amended to read:

§ 1282. OPERATOR, EQUIPMENT, AND INSPECTION

(a) Before ~~a person~~ an individual may assume the duty of transporting school pupils in either a Type I or Type II school bus, he or she shall as a minimum:

\* \* \*

(2) Furnish the Department of Motor Vehicles or, in the case of ~~a person~~ an individual licensed in another jurisdiction furnish his or her employer, a certificate signed by a licensed physician, or a certified physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner in accordance with written protocols, that he or she is, as far as can be determined by reasonable inquiry and examination, mentally and physically competent to perform his or her duties. Any newly diagnosed diabetic or established diabetic must be stabilized and must be certified by his or her personal physician that he or she has not had a hypoglycemic reaction (loss of consciousness or near loss of consciousness) for the last two years or since his or her last physical, whichever is longer. Any diabetic must be recertified every six months by his or her personal physician who must state that the patient has not had a hypoglycemic reaction during that time.

\* \* \*

1 (b) A school bus shall not be operated in the transportation of children to  
2 and from school unless and until it is inspected at an inspection station  
3 designated as such by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The inspection shall  
4 thoroughly cover mechanical conditions, standard equipment, extra equipment,  
5 and safety and comfort conditions all as provided in section 1281 of this title  
6 and, if the inspected vehicle meets all of these requirements, the inspection  
7 station shall give the owner or operator of the inspected vehicle a signed  
8 certificate so stating. This certificate shall be shown as soon as possible by the  
9 owner or operator to a school director in the town in which this vehicle is to be  
10 operated, and shall thereafter be carried in some easily accessible place in the  
11 vehicle. Thereafter, so long as this bus remains in this service, it must be  
12 reinspected as provided in this section during each of the following periods:  
13 ~~July August, November December, and February March~~ January to April,  
14 May to August, and September to December. School buses of the pleasure car  
15 type, if regularly used in this service, shall display signs required in  
16 subdivision 1283(a)(1) of this title when transporting schoolchildren.

17 \* \* \*

18 (d)(1) No less often than every two years, and before the start of a school  
19 year, ~~a person~~ an individual licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles to  
20 assume the duty of transporting school pupils in either a Type I or Type II

1 school bus shall furnish the employer who employs him or her as a school bus  
2 driver the following:

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 1283(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Types I and II school buses shall be:

6 \* \* \*

7 (2) Painted national school bus glossy yellow, except that the hood shall  
8 be either ~~that color~~ national school bus glossy yellow or lusterless black, ~~and~~  
9 the fenders shall be either ~~that color~~ national school bus glossy yellow or  
10 black, and the roof shall be either national school bus glossy yellow or white.

11 For Type II school buses, the requirements of this subdivision and subdivision  
12 (a)(3) of this section shall apply to any new bus ordered on or after January 1,  
13 2000.

14 (3) Equipped with bumpers of glossy black, unless for increased night  
15 visibility they are covered with a reflective material, or, if the school bus is a  
16 plug-in electric vehicle, blue.

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 2013(a) is amended to read:

19 (a)(1) Except as provided in section 2012 of this title, the provisions of this  
20 chapter shall apply to and a title must be obtained for all motor vehicles at the

1 time of first registration or when a change of registration is required under the  
2 provisions of section 321 of this title by reason of a sale for consideration.

3 (2) In addition, a Vermont resident may apply at any time to the  
4 Commissioner to obtain an “exempt vehicle title” for a vehicle that is **more**  
5 **than ~~25~~ 15 years old**. Such titles shall be in a form prescribed by the  
6 Commissioner and shall include a legend indicating that the title is issued  
7 under the authority of this subdivision. The Commissioner shall issue an  
8 exempt vehicle title if the applicant pays the applicable fee and fulfills the  
9 requirements of this section, and if the Commissioner is satisfied that:

10 \* \* \*

11 \* \* \* Commercial Vehicles; Size and Weight \* \* \*

12 Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 1399 is amended to read

13 § 1399. EXCEPTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE  
14 EQUIPMENT; FIRE APPARATUS; HEAVY-DUTY TOW AND  
15 RECOVERY VEHICLES; AND TOWAWAY TRAILERS

16 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

17 (1) “Heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle” means a vehicle that:

18 (A) is transporting a disabled vehicle from the place where the  
19 vehicle became disabled to the nearest appropriate repair facility; and

20 (B) has a gross vehicle weight that is equal to or exceeds the gross  
21 vehicle weight of the disabled vehicle being transported.

1           (2) “Trailer transporter towing unit” means a power unit that is not used  
2           to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer transporter combination.

3           (3) “Towaway trailer transporter combination” means a combination of  
4           vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two trailers or  
5           semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed 26,000 pounds and in  
6           which the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory  
7           property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or  
8           semitrailers.

9           (b) Weight restrictions. Nothing contained in sections ~~1391-1398~~ 1391–  
10           1398 of this title, shall restrict the weight of:

11           (1) snow plows, road machines, oilers, traction engines, tractors, rollers,  
12           power shovels, dump wagons, trucks, or other construction or maintenance  
13           equipment when used by any town, incorporated village, city, or ~~state~~ the State  
14           in the construction or the maintenance of any highway within the construction  
15           area, provided that such construction or maintenance is performed by persons  
16           employed by or under contract with such town, incorporated village, city, or  
17           the State for this purpose. ~~However, any operation of motorized highway~~  
18           ~~building equipment or road making appliances used in construction work~~  
19           ~~contracted by a town, incorporated village, city, or the State shall be~~  
20           ~~unrestricted as to weight only within a construction area.~~

1           ~~(2) Nothing contained in sections 1391–1398 of this title shall restrict the~~  
2 ~~weight of municipal and volunteer fire apparatus; or~~

3           (3) heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicles on the Dwight D. Eisenhower  
4 System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

5           (c) Length restrictions. Notwithstanding 1391–1398 of this title, a  
6 towaway trailer transporter combination may be operated on the Dwight D.  
7 Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways; those classes of  
8 qualifying Federal-aid Primary System highways as designated by the  
9 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and on highways leading  
10 to or from the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense  
11 Highways for a distance of one mile or less without a permit if the overall  
12 length does not exceed 82 feet unless the Vermont Secretary of Transportation  
13 finds the use of a specific highway to be unsafe.

14       Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 1433 is amended to read:

15       § 1433. REASONABLE ACCESS

16           Reasonable access, within the meaning of 19 V.S.A. § 1111, shall be  
17 permitted to those vehicles operating pursuant to the provisions of subsections  
18 1302(c) and 1432(e) of this title between the Interstate and Defense Highway  
19 System and any other qualifying Federal-aid Primary System highways, as  
20 designated by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the  
21 Vermont Secretary of Transportation, and terminals, facilities for food, fuel,



1 repairs, and rest, and points of loading and unloading for household goods  
2 carriers. The Vermont Secretary of Transportation shall by rule pursuant to  
3 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 either designate those portions of the public highways over  
4 which such reasonable access shall be permitted or provide for the issuance of  
5 permits to allow reasonable access. However, permits shall not be required for  
6 tractor-semi-trailer combinations ~~engaged in~~ designed for the transportation of  
7 automobiles and having provision for transporting motor vehicles on part of  
8 the power unit provided the combinations comply with the provisions of  
9 subsection 1432(a) of this title.

10 Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. § 4103 is amended to read:

11 § 4103. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this chapter:

13 \* \* \*

14 (4)(A) “Commercial motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle designed or  
15 used to transport passengers or property:

16 ~~(A) a motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or~~  
17 ~~property that:~~

18 (i) ~~if the vehicle has~~ either a gross vehicle weight rating or gross  
19 vehicle weight of at least 26,001 or more pounds or such lesser rating as  
20 determined by federal regulation;

1 (ii) ~~if the vehicle~~ is designed to transport more than 15 passengers,  
2 including the driver; or

3 (iii) ~~if the vehicle~~ is transporting hazardous materials and is  
4 required to be placarded in accordance with 49 C.F.R. part 172, subpart F.

5 (B) ~~the term~~ “Commercial motor vehicle” shall not include:

6 \* \* \*

7 \* \* \* Acceptable Forms of Notice for Commercial Vehicle Operations \* \* \*

8 Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. chapter 27 is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 27. DIESEL FUEL TAX

10 \* \* \*

11 § 3002. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this chapter:

13 \* \* \*

14 (11) “Mail,” “mails,” “mailing,” and “mailed” mean any method of  
15 delivery authorized by the Commissioner, **which shall include** by hand, U.S.  
16 mail, and electronic transmission.

17 \* \* \*

18 § 3005. DEALER’S AND DISTRIBUTOR’S LICENSES; APPLICATION;

19 ISSUANCE

20 \* \* \*

1 (b) An applicant for a dealer's or distributor's license shall file by mail an  
2 application furnished by the Commissioner with the Commissioner ~~an~~  
3 ~~application prepared and furnished by the Commissioner~~. The application shall  
4 not be under oath but shall contain a declaration that it is made under the  
5 penalties of perjury.

6 \* \* \*

7 § 3009. DISCONTINUANCE, REVOCATION, AND REINSTATEMENT  
8 OF LICENSES

9 (a) When any person ceases to be a licensee by reason of a discontinuance,  
10 sale, or transfer of his or her business at any location, he or she shall notify the  
11 Commissioner in writing by mail at the time the discontinuance, sale, or  
12 transfer takes effect. The notice shall give the date of discontinuance and, in  
13 the event of a sale or transfer of the business, the name and address of the  
14 purchaser or transferee. All taxes, interest, and penalties not yet due and  
15 payable under the provisions of this chapter shall be due and payable,  
16 notwithstanding such provisions, concurrently with the discontinuance, sale, or  
17 transfer. The licensee shall file a report by mail and simultaneously pay all  
18 taxes, interest, penalties, and other expenses due by him or her and surrender to  
19 the Commissioner the license certificate issued to him or her together with all  
20 duplicates and copies, and a user shall remove and surrender to the  
21 Commissioner all identification markers from his or her motor vehicles. Until

1 such notice has been given to the Commissioner by a licensee required to file a  
2 bond, the seller and his or her surety shall be liable for the taxes, interest,  
3 penalties, and other expenses accruing against the transferee, but only to the  
4 extent of the value of the property transferred.

5 (b) The Commissioner may suspend or revoke the license, the right to  
6 operate any vehicle, and any registrations of a person who fails to comply with  
7 any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter. Such  
8 suspension or revocation shall be effective upon not less than 15 days' notice  
9 unless within those 15 days the licensee ~~shall request in writing~~ mails a written  
10 request for a hearing to show cause why the suspension or revocation should  
11 not become effective.

12 \* \* \*

13 § 3011. BOND REQUIREMENT; AMOUNT; FAILURE OF SECURITY

14 (a) When the Commissioner deems it necessary to protect the revenues to  
15 be obtained under this chapter, he or she may require a user, dealer, or  
16 distributor to file with him or her a bond, issued by a surety company  
17 authorized to transact business in this State and approved by the Commissioner  
18 of Financial Regulation of this State as to solvency and responsibility, in an  
19 amount fixed by the Commissioner, but not to exceed the total potential  
20 liability of such person, to secure the payment of any tax or penalties or  
21 interest due or which may become due from a licensee under this chapter. In

1 the event that the Commissioner determines that such person is to file a bond,  
2 he or she shall ~~give notice to him or her to that effect, specifying~~ notify the  
3 user, dealer, or distributor by mail of the amount of the bond required. That  
4 person shall file a bond within 15 days after the giving of the notice unless  
5 within those 15 days he or she shall request in writing sent by mail a hearing  
6 before the Commissioner at which the necessity, propriety, and amount of the  
7 bond shall be determined by the Commissioner. The Commissioner's  
8 determination shall be final and shall be complied with within 15 days after ~~the~~  
9 ~~giving of notice thereof~~ mailing to the user, dealer, or distributor. In lieu of a  
10 bond, securities approved by the Commissioner or cash in such amount as he  
11 or she may prescribe may be deposited, which shall be kept in the custody of  
12 the State Treasurer who may at any time upon instructions from the  
13 Commissioner without notice to the depositor apply them to any tax or interest  
14 or penalties due, and for that purpose the securities may be sold by him or her  
15 at public or private sale without notice to the depositor thereof.

16 \* \* \*

17 § 3012. DISCHARGE OF SURETY

18 Any surety on a bond furnished by a licensee shall be discharged from any  
19 liability to the State accruing on the bond after expiration of 60 days from the  
20 date the surety ~~shall have~~ filed by mail with the Commissioner a written  
21 request to be released and discharged, but the surety shall not be released or

1 discharged from liability already accrued or which shall accrue before the  
2 expiration of the 60-day period. The Commissioner, upon receipt of such a  
3 request, shall promptly notify by mail the licensee who furnished the bond.  
4 Unless the licensee, prior to the expiration of the 60-day period, files a new  
5 bond satisfactory to the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall revoke his or  
6 her license.

7 § 3013. RECORDS; SALES INVOICE; INSPECTION

8 \* \* \*

9 (b) Each sale or delivery of fuel by a dealer to a user shall be recorded on  
10 demand by the user upon a preprinted, serially numbered invoice approved in  
11 form and content by the Commissioner and ~~a copy~~ delivered to the user by  
12 mail. The sales invoice shall constitute a receipt for the amount of tax  
13 collected by the dealer upon payment by the user. Copies of the sales invoices  
14 shall be retained by the user and the dealer for not less than three years. For  
15 the purposes of claiming a tax credit or refund under sections 3015 and 3020 of  
16 this title, a user with the approval of the Commissioner may submit as a receipt  
17 a record of purchases made upon which the tax was paid at the time of  
18 purchase; provided, however, that the supporting documents are available for  
19 audit purposes in readily accessible form or on readable microfilm.

20 \* \* \*

21 § 3014. REPORTS; EXCEPTIONS

1 (a) Every distributor or dealer, on or before the 25th day of each month,  
2 shall file by mail with the Commissioner on forms prescribed by him or her a  
3 report for the preceding month ~~which~~ that shall include the number of gallons  
4 of fuel sold or delivered. A distributor's report shall also include the identity  
5 of the person to whom the fuel was sold or delivered, the amount of the tax  
6 collected and by whom, and the monthly total of fuel sold or delivered. The  
7 report shall be filed even though no fuel was sold or delivered.

8 (b) Every licensed user shall file by mail a report with the Commissioner  
9 on forms prescribed or in a form approved by him or her, which shall include  
10 the number of gallons of fuel used in Vermont by motor vehicles owned or  
11 operated by him or her. All users shall file on a quarterly basis on or before  
12 April 30 for the calendar quarter ending March 31, on or before July 31 for the  
13 calendar quarter ending June 30, on or before October 31 for the calendar  
14 quarter ending September 30, and on or before January 31 for the calendar  
15 quarter ending December 31. The report shall be filed even though no motor  
16 fuel was used or delivered.

17 \* \* \*

18 § 3026. REPORTS BY RAILROADS

19 (a) Every person or corporation operating a railroad in the State shall file  
20 by mail a report with the Commissioner on forms prescribed by him or her,  
21 which shall include the number of gallons of fuel used in Vermont by railroad

1 trains owned or operated by them on a quarterly basis on or before October 31  
2 for the calendar quarter ending September 30, and on or before January 31 for  
3 the calendar quarter ending December 31, and on or before April 30 for the  
4 calendar quarter ending March 31, and on or before July 31 for the calendar  
5 quarter ending June 30.

6 \* \* \*

7 § 3028. BULK SALES; TRANSFEREE LIABILITY

8 (a) Whenever a licensee (transferor) required to collect and remit the tax  
9 required by this chapter shall make any sale, transfer, lease, or assignment  
10 (transfer) in bulk of any part or the whole of the assets of a business, otherwise  
11 than in the ordinary course of the business, the purchaser, transferee, lessee, or  
12 assignee (transferee) shall, at least 10 days before taking possession of the  
13 subject of the transfer or before payment therefor if earlier, notify the  
14 Commissioner in writing by mail of the proposed transfer and of the price and  
15 date thereof; and whether or not the transferor has represented to, or has  
16 informed the transferee that the transferor owes any tax, interest, or penalties  
17 required by this chapter and whether or not the transferee has knowledge that  
18 such taxes, interest, or penalties are owed, and whether any taxes, interest, or  
19 penalties are in fact owed.

20 \* \* \*

21 Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 1 is amended to read:



1 Subchapter 1. General Gasoline Tax

2 § 3101. DEFINITIONS; SCOPE

3 (a) As used in this chapter:

4 (1) ~~The term “distributor” as used in this subchapter shall mean~~  
5 “Distributor” means a person, firm, or corporation who imports or causes to be  
6 imported gasoline or other motor fuel for use, distribution, or sale within the  
7 State, or any person, firm, or corporation who produces, refines, manufactures,  
8 or compounds gasoline or other motor fuel within the State for use,  
9 distribution, or sale. When a person receives motor fuel in circumstances that  
10 preclude the collection of the tax from the distributor by reason of the  
11 provisions of the Constitution and laws of the United States, and thereafter  
12 sells or uses the motor fuel in the State in a manner and under circumstances as  
13 may subject the sale to the taxing power of the State, the person shall be  
14 considered a distributor and shall make the same reports, pay the same taxes,  
15 and be subject to all provisions of this subchapter relating to distributors of  
16 motor fuel.

17 \* \* \*

18 (4) “Mail,” “mails,” “mailing,” and “mailed” mean any method of  
19 delivery authorized by the Commissioner, which shall include by hand, U.S.  
20 mail, and electronic transmission.

21 \* \* \*

1 § 3102. LICENSING AND BONDING OF DISTRIBUTORS

2 \* \* \*

3 (d) All distributors shall ~~submit~~ mail financial statements to the  
4 Commissioner on an annual basis. If the distributor does not wish to submit a  
5 financial statement, a bond in the amount established in accordance with  
6 subsection (c) of this section shall be required.

7 \* \* \*

8 § 3103. DISCONTINUANCE, REVOCATION, AND REINSTATEMENT  
9 OF LICENSES

10 (a) When any person ceases to be a licensee by reason of a discontinuance,  
11 sale, or transfer of his or her business at any location, he or she shall notify the  
12 Commissioner in writing by mail at the time the discontinuance, sale, or  
13 transfer takes effect. The notice shall give the date of discontinuance and, in  
14 the event of a sale or transfer of the business, the name and address of the  
15 purchaser or transferee. All taxes, interest, and penalties not yet due and  
16 payable under the provisions of this chapter shall be due and payable,  
17 notwithstanding those provisions, concurrently with the discontinuance, sale,  
18 or transfer. The licensee shall ~~file~~ mail a report and simultaneously pay all  
19 taxes, interest, penalties, and other expenses due by him or her and surrender to  
20 the Commissioner the license certificate issued to him or her together with all  
21 duplicates and copies. Until the notice has been ~~given~~ mailed to the

1 Commissioner by a licensee, the seller and his or her surety shall be liable for  
2 the taxes, interest, penalties, and other expenses accruing against the  
3 transferee, but only to the extent of the value of the property transferred.

4 (b) The Commissioner may suspend or revoke the license, the right to  
5 operate any vehicle, and any registrations of a person who fails to comply with  
6 any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter. The  
7 suspension or revocation shall be effective upon not less than 15 days' notice  
8 unless within those 15 days the licensee ~~requests in writing~~ mails a written  
9 request for a hearing to show cause why the suspension or revocation should  
10 not become effective.

11 \* \* \*

12 § 3108. RETURNS

13 For the purpose of determining the amount of the tax levied and assessed,  
14 by the 25th day of each calendar month, each distributor shall ~~send~~ mail to the  
15 Commissioner upon a form prepared and furnished by him or her a statement  
16 or return under oath or affirmation, showing:

17 \* \* \*

18 § 3118. BULK SALES; TRANSFEREE LIABILITY

19 (a) Whenever a licensee (transferor) required to collect and remit the tax  
20 required by this subchapter shall make any sale, transfer, lease, or assignment  
21 (transfer) in bulk of any part or the whole of the assets of a business, otherwise

1 than in the ordinary course of the business, the purchaser, transferee, lessee, or  
2 assignee (transferee) shall, at least 10 days before taking possession of the  
3 subject of the transfer or before payment therefor if earlier, notify the  
4 Commissioner in writing by mail of the proposed transfer and of the price, and  
5 date thereof; and whether or not the transferor has represented to, or has  
6 informed the transferee that the transferor owes any tax, interest, or penalties  
7 required by this subchapter and whether or not the transferee has knowledge  
8 that such taxes, interest, or penalties are owed, and whether any taxes, interest,  
9 or penalties are in fact owed.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. chapter 35 is amended to read:

12 CHAPTER 35. INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN

13 § 3700. DEFINITION; MAIL

14 As used in this chapter, “mail,” “mails,” “mailing,” and “mailed” mean any  
15 method of delivery authorized by the Commissioner, which shall include by  
16 hand, U.S. mail, and electronic transmission.

17 \* \* \*

18 § 3703. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION

19 Any International Registration Plan registrant based in this State may apply  
20 by mail and be issued temporary authorization to operate a vehicle not in the  
21 registrant’s fleet for a period not to exceed 45 days for a fee of \$15.00. Any

1 person to whom temporary authorization is issued shall submit an application  
2 by mail for permanent registration for the vehicle covered by the temporary  
3 authorization within 10 days of the date of its issuance. Failure to submit an  
4 application within the 10-day period may result in the suspension of the  
5 temporary authorization. The temporary authorization shall be kept with the  
6 vehicle while being operated.

7 \* \* \*

8 § 3706. LICENSE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

9 The Commissioner may suspend or revoke the license, the right to operate  
10 any vehicle, and any registrations of a person who fails to comply with any  
11 provisions of the International Registration Plan of this chapter or any rule  
12 adopted pursuant to this chapter. The suspension or revocation shall be  
13 effective upon not less than 15 ~~days~~ days' notice unless within those 15 days  
14 the registrant ~~shall request in writing~~ mails a written request for a hearing to  
15 show cause why the suspension or revocation should not be effective.

16 \* \* \* Commercial Vehicle Credits and Refunds \* \* \*

17 Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 3020 is amended to read:

18 § 3020. CREDITS AND REFUNDS

19 (a) Credits.

20 (1) A ~~person~~ user who purchased fuel within this State from a dealer or  
21 distributor upon which he or she paid the tax at the time of purchase, or a

1 ~~person~~ user exempt from the payment of the tax under subsection 3003(d) of  
2 this title ~~and~~ who purchased fuel within this State upon which he or she paid  
3 tax at the time of purchase, shall be entitled to a credit ~~or refund~~ equal to the  
4 amount of tax per gallon in effect when the fuel was purchased. When the  
5 amount of the credit to which any ~~person~~ user is entitled for any reporting  
6 period exceeds the amount of his or her tax for the same period, the excess  
7 shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be notified of the  
8 date and amount of the credit by mail.

9 (2) If the Commissioner determines that a tax, penalty, interest, or fee  
10 required by this chapter has been paid more than once by a user, or has been  
11 illegally or erroneously collected or computed, the excess amount paid or  
12 collected shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be  
13 notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

14 (3) A user who also sells or delivers fuel subject to the tax imposed by  
15 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 upon which the tax imposed by this chapter has been  
16 paid shall be entitled to a credit equal to the amount of such tax paid pursuant  
17 to this chapter. When the amount of the credit to which any user is entitled for  
18 any reporting period exceeds the amount of his or her tax for the same period,  
19 the excess shall be credited to the user's tax account and the user shall be  
20 notified of the date and amount of the credit by mail.

1           (4) Any credits in the user’s tax account shall be allowed as a credit  
2           against either the tax for which the ~~person~~ user otherwise would be liable for  
3           ~~the next~~ in a succeeding reporting period or any registration fees assessed  
4           pursuant to chapter 35 of this title. ~~However, any credits to be calculated shall~~  
5           ~~be applied against any outstanding assessments due with the balance to be~~  
6           ~~credited against the tax liability for the next succeeding reporting period. If~~  
7           ~~requested, he or she shall be entitled to a refund of any excess tax paid. When~~  
8           ~~the excess tax paid is \$25.00 or greater, a refund shall be made without a~~  
9           ~~request being required. Credit or refunds for tax paid purchases must be~~  
10           ~~claimed on either the report covering the reporting period in which the~~  
11           ~~purchase was made or on the report filed for any of the next 11 following~~  
12           ~~reporting periods~~

13           (b) Refunds. A user may request, in writing by mail, a refund of any  
14           credits in the user’s tax account, but in no case may ~~credits or refunds be~~  
15           ~~claimed~~ a user collect a refund requested more than 33 months following the  
16           ~~due date of the report covering the reporting period in which the purchase was~~  
17           ~~made~~ the amount was credited to the user’s tax account.

18           ~~(b) If the Commissioner determines that a tax, penalty, interest, or fee~~  
19           ~~required by this chapter has been paid more than once by a licensee, or has~~  
20           ~~been illegally or erroneously collected or computed, the excess amount paid or~~  
21           ~~collected shall be credited to the tax account of the licensee, and the licensee~~

1 ~~shall be notified thereof by mail. Any balance of the excess amount remaining~~  
2 ~~in the licensee's account after crediting the overpayment shall be refunded if~~  
3 ~~requested within 30 days of the date of mailing notice.~~

4 (c) ~~A person who sells or delivers fuel subject to the tax imposed by 32~~  
5 ~~V.S.A. chapter 233 upon which the tax imposed by this chapter has been paid~~  
6 ~~shall be entitled to a refund in the amount of such tax paid pursuant to this~~  
7 ~~chapter. Such refunds shall be claimed at the time the report required under~~  
8 ~~section 3014 of this title is filed for the reporting period in which the sale or~~  
9 ~~delivery subject to 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 was made or on the report for the~~  
10 ~~next following reporting period. [Repealed.]~~

11 Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 3705 is amended to read:

12 § 3705. COLLECTION OF APPORTIONED REGISTRATION; CREDITS  
13 AND REFUNDS

14 (a) The Commissioner ~~may~~ shall postpone the collection of apportioned  
15 registration fees until the fees have been computed and any credit available  
16 pursuant to subsection 3020(a) of this title applied. ~~Upon calculation, the~~

17 (b) The Commissioner shall ~~send~~ mail notice of any fees due to the  
18 registrant. ~~Payment, and payment~~ of these fees must be received within  
19 15 days of the date of the notice.



1       (c) Upon receipt of the proper fees, or after determining that no fees are  
2       owed due to credits available pursuant to subsection 3020(a) of this title, the  
3       Commissioner shall issue the necessary identification plates and cab cards.

4       (d) If the Commissioner determines that a fee required by this chapter was  
5       paid more than once, has been erroneously collected or computed, or for which  
6       the State was without power to impose, the excess amount paid or collected  
7       shall be credited to the account of the registrant maintained pursuant to  
8       subsection 3020(a) of this title and the registrant shall be notified of the date  
9       and amount of the credit by mail.

10               \* \* \* Proof of Snowmobile Education Certificate \* \* \*

11       Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 3206(b) is amended to read:

12       (b) A snowmobile shall not be operated:

13                               \* \* \*

14       (8) By a person born after July 1, 1983, on private or public land and  
15       water without first obtaining a certificate of snowmobile education, unless he  
16       or she is operating on land owned, leased, or farmed by his or her parents,  
17       family, or guardian or the operator is the land owner.

18       (A) A person who is required to have a certificate of snowmobile  
19       education shall:

20       (i) possess the certificate or a copy of the certificate when  
21       operating a snowmobile on public or private lands and waters of the State; and

1 (ii) show the certificate or a copy of the certificate on demand of  
2 an enforcement officer wearing an insignia identifying him or her as a law  
3 enforcement officer. ~~However, no~~ No person charged with violating this  
4 subdivision shall be convicted if the person produces in court, to the officer, or  
5 to a State’s Attorney, a certificate ~~which~~ or a copy of the certificate that was  
6 valid at the time the violation occurred. A person may show an electronic copy  
7 of the certificate using a portable electronic device; however, use of a device  
8 for this purpose does not in itself constitute consent for an enforcement officer  
9 to access other contents of the device.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 3207 is amended to read:

12 § 3207. PENALTIES AND REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION; SWI;

13 PRIVILEGE; SUSPENSION; CRIMINAL PENALTY

14 (a) A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be  
15 subject to a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of \$35.00 for each violation:

- |    |               |  |
|----|---------------|--|
| 16 | § 3203        | failure to return transferred registration   |
| 17 | § 3205(a)-(c) | operation with defective or inadequate equipment,<br>18 except improper muffling device                                      |
| 19 | § 3205(e)     | sale of a snowmobile for operation without required<br>20 equipment; improper operation; permitting<br>21 improper operation |

1           § 3206(b)(8)       by a person ~~under 12~~ without a certificate of  
2   snowmobile education

3           § 3206(b)(1)(D)   by a person under age 16

4           § 3206(b)(10)     display of registration plate

5           (b) A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be  
6   subject to a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of \$55.00 for each violation:

7   \* \* \*

8           (c) A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be  
9   subject to a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of \$135.00 for each violation:

10   \* \* \*

11          (d) A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be  
12   subject to a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of \$300.00 for each violation:

13   \* \* \*

14          (e) A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be  
15   subject to a ~~fine~~ civil penalty of up to \$500.00 for each violation:

16   \* \* \*

17          (f) A person who violates any of the following provisions of this title shall  
18   be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or  
19   both. If the person has been previously convicted of the same violation, the  
20   person shall be imprisoned for not more than two years or fined not more than  
21   \$3,000.00, or both:

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

(h) ~~Fines~~ Civil penalties established under this section shall be mandatory, and may not be reduced.

\* \* \* ATV Definition \* \* \*

Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 3501 is amended to read:

§ 3501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(5) “All-terrain vehicle” or “ATV” means any nonhighway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having ~~no~~ not less than two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less), not wider than 64 inches with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels, and having a dry weight of less than ~~4,700~~ 2,500 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (AAA); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A) and (B); and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV shall not include an electric personal assistive mobility device.

1                   \* \* \* Commercial Driver’s License Disqualification \* \* \*

2           Sec. 25. 23 V.S.A. § 4116 is amended to read:

3           § 4116. DISQUALIFICATION

4           (a) ~~A person~~ Disqualification for one year; first violation. An individual  
5 shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle for a period of  
6 one year if convicted of a first violation of:

7   \* \* \*

8                         (7) operating or attempting to operate a commercial motor vehicle while  
9 the license is revoked, suspended, cancelled, or disqualified; or

10    \* \* \*

11           (b) ~~A person~~ Disqualification for three years; transportation of a hazardous  
12 material. An individual shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor  
13 vehicle for three years if convicted of a violation listed in subsection (a) of this  
14 section, if the violation occurred while transporting a hazardous material  
15 required to be placarded.

16           (c) ~~A person~~ Disqualification for life. An individual shall be disqualified  
17 from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if convicted of:

18                     (1) two or more separate violations listed in subsection (a) of this  
19 section arising from two or more separate occurrences;

20                     (2) any offense under State or federal law that is punishable by  
21 imprisonment for a term exceeding one year involving the manufacture,

1 distribution, or dispensing of a regulated drug, or possession with intent to  
2 manufacture, distribute, or dispense a regulated drug where the person used a  
3 motor vehicle in the commission of the offense; or

4 (3) a felony involving an act or practice of severe forms of trafficking in  
5 persons, as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 7102(11), where the person used a motor  
6 vehicle in the commission of the offense.

7 (d) ~~A person~~ Disqualification for 60 or 120 days; serious traffic violation.  
8 An individual shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle  
9 for a period of 60 days if convicted of two serious traffic violations, or  
10 120 days if convicted of a third or subsequent serious traffic violation, arising  
11 from separate incidents occurring within a three-year period. A  
12 disqualification for 120 days shall be ~~issued to be~~ consecutive ~~with to~~ any  
13 previous disqualification.

14 (e) ~~A person shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle~~  
15 ~~for life if the person uses a motor vehicle in the commission of any offense~~  
16 ~~under State or federal law that is punishable by imprisonment for a term~~  
17 ~~exceeding one year involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a~~  
18 ~~regulated drug, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense~~  
19 ~~a regulated drug and for which the person was convicted.~~ Disqualification for  
20 convictions involving a railroad-highway grade crossing violation.

1           (1) An individual shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor  
2           vehicle for a period of 60 days if the driver is convicted of a first violation of a  
3           railroad-highway grade crossing violation.

4           (2) An individual shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor  
5           vehicle for a period of 120 days if, during any three-year period, the driver is  
6           convicted of a second railroad-highway grade crossing violation in a separate  
7           incident.

8           (3) An individual shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor  
9           vehicle for a period of one year if, during any three-year period, the driver is  
10           convicted of a third or subsequent railroad-highway grade crossing violation in  
11           separate incidents.

12           (f) ~~A person~~ Surrender of license. An individual who is disqualified from  
13           driving a commercial motor vehicle shall surrender his or her Vermont  
14           commercial driver license no later than the effective date of the  
15           disqualification. Upon receipt of the ~~person's~~ individual's commercial ~~driver~~  
16           driver's license, a Class D license shall be issued, provided the individual is  
17           otherwise eligible.

18           (g) Rulemaking. The Commissioner shall adopt rules establishing  
19           guidelines, including conditions, under which a disqualification for life under  
20           this section, except for a disqualification issued pursuant to ~~subsection (e)~~

1 subdivision (c)(2) or (c)(3) of this section, may be reduced to a period of not  
2 less than 10 years.

3 ~~(h) A person shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle~~  
4 ~~for a period of 60 days if the driver is convicted of a first violation of a~~  
5 ~~railroad highway grade crossing violation. [Repealed.]~~

6 ~~(i) A person shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle~~  
7 ~~for a period of 120 days if, during any three year period, the driver is convicted~~  
8 ~~of a second railroad highway grade crossing violation in a separate incident.~~  
9 ~~[Repealed.]~~

10 ~~(j) A person shall be disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle~~  
11 ~~for a period of one year if, during any three year period, the driver is convicted~~  
12 ~~of a third or subsequent railroad highway grade crossing violation in separate~~  
13 ~~incidents. [Repealed.]~~

14 ~~(k) A person~~ Concurrent disqualification. An individual shall be  
15 disqualified for a term concurrent with any disqualification or suspension  
16 issued by the administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

17 \* \* \* Online Permitting System \* \* \*

18 Sec. 26. ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM; REPORT

19 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is authorized to initiate the  
20 design and development of a centralized online permitting system. The online  
21 system shall provide 24-hour-a-day access to a system where a person can



1 apply for, obtain, and pay for required weight and length permits issued by the  
2 Agency of Transportation.

3 (b) The Commissioner shall design the online system so that in a future  
4 phase municipally issued weight and length permits may be purchased and  
5 issued through the same system. The Commissioner shall consult with  
6 stakeholders to establish conditions for municipally issued permits prior to  
7 engaging in design and development for the future phase.

8 (c) The Agency of Transportation shall facilitate a study to identify any  
9 safety or financial implications to infrastructure, including bridges, culverts,  
10 pavement, and roadway, or jurisdictional issues for class 2 town highways if  
11 municipal permits are not required for vehicles that are allowed on State  
12 highways without a permit. The Agency shall file a written report on this  
13 study with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before  
14 January 15, 2021.

15 \* \* \* Public Records Requests; Report \* \* \*

16 Sec. 27. REPORT ON RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

17 On or before January 15, 2021, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall file  
18 a written report with the House Committees on Judiciary, on Transportation,  
19 and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Finance, on Judiciary,  
20 and on Transportation that provides an update on changes the Department has  
21 made to its policies and practices surrounding the release of personal

1 information pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 104 and 114. The report shall, at a  
2 minimum, provide:

3 (1) recommendations on what permissive disclosures under the Driver’s  
4 Privacy Protection Act the Department should and should not release  
5 information pursuant to;

6 (2) statistics for calendar year 2020 on the number of persons who  
7 requested personal information under each permissive disclosure and the  
8 breakdown of how many were approved, how many were denied, and how  
9 many made more than one request, including ongoing requests;

10 (3) recommendations on what application, contract, or request forms  
11 should be used and whether to implement an annual affirmation for requestors  
12 who have previously been approved; and

13 (4) a breakdown of fees collected by the Department in response to  
14 public records requests in calendar year 2020 broken out by authorizing  
15 subdivision under 23 V.S.A. § 114(a) and including an explanation of what  
16 proportion was deposited in the Transportation Fund.

17 \* \* \* Use of Lighted Paddle Signaling Devices by Flaggers \* \* \*

18 Sec. 28. USE OF LIGHTED PADDLE SIGNALING DEVICES

19 (a) On or before September 1, 2020, the Agency of Transportation,  
20 pursuant to the duties established under 19 V.S.A. § 10, shall update The  
21 Unofficial 2018 Standard Specifications for Construction to include a

1 requirement that all highway flaggers shall be equipped with a STOP/SLOW  
2 paddle signaling device modified to improve conspicuity by incorporating  
3 either white or red flashing lights on the STOP face and either white or yellow  
4 flashing lights on the SLOW face in one of the patterns and consistent with the  
5 standards detailed in Part 6E.03 of the Manual Uniform on Traffic Control  
6 Devices (MUTCD).

7 (b) The Agency, pursuant to the duties established under 19 V.S.A. § 10,  
8 shall include a requirement that all highway flaggers shall be equipped with a  
9 STOP/SLOW paddle signaling device modified to improve conspicuity by  
10 incorporating flashing lights consistent with the standards detailed in the  
11 MUTCD in all of its standard specifications for construction and unofficial  
12 updates provided the use of such modified STOP/SLOW paddle signaling  
13 device is an option in the MUTCD.

14 (c) As soon as practicable, the Agency shall survey practices for  
15 encouraging motor vehicle operators to slow down to a reduced speed prior to  
16 entering a work zone, shall establish and implement the most effective  
17 practices in all Agency construction projects as appropriate given the safety  
18 concerns and other circumstances of the project; and shall require that those  
19 practices be implemented by all Agency construction project contractors as  
20 appropriate given the safety concerns and other circumstances of the project.

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

1  
2       Sec. 29. EFFECTIVE DATES

3           (a) This section and Secs. 7 (U.S. Armed Forces license extensions;  
4           23 V.S.A. § 616), 12 (school busses; 23 V.S.A. § 1283(a)), 14 (commercial  
5           vehicle exceptions; 23 V.S.A. § 1399), Sec. 13 (exempted vehicles; 23 V.S.A.  
6           § 2012), 17 (diesel fuel tax; 23 V.S.A. chapter 27), 18 (general gasoline tax; 23  
7           V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 1), 19 (International Registration Plan; 23  
8           V.S.A. chapter 35), 20 (fuel tax credits and refunds; 23 V.S.A. § 3020), 21  
9           (registration credits and refunds; 23 V.S.A. § 3705), 22 (snowmobile  
10           certificate; 23 V.S.A. § 3206(b)), 23 (snowmobile penalties; 23 V.S.A.  
11           § 3207), 25 (commercial driver’s license disqualifications; 23 V.S.A. § 4116),  
12           26 (online truck permitting system), 27 (report on release of personal  
13           information), and 28 (lighted paddle signaling devices) shall take effect on  
14           passage.

15           (b) Sec. 11 (inspection of school buses; 23 V.S.A. § 1282) shall take effect  
16           on September 1, 2020.

17           (c) Sec. 4 (electronic in-transit permit; 23 V.S.A. § 518) shall take effect on  
18           July 1, 2021.

19           (d) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2020.