

1 S.309

2 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to the Department  
3 of Motor Vehicles, motor vehicles, and vessels

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

5 \* \* \* Transporters \* \* \*

6 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

7 § 4. DEFINITIONS

8 \* \* \*

9 (8)(A)(i) “Dealer” means a person, partnership, corporation, or other  
10 entity engaged in the business of selling or exchanging new or used motor  
11 vehicles, snowmobiles, motorboats, or all-terrain vehicles. A dealer may, as  
12 part of or incidental to such business, repair such vehicles or motorboats, sell  
13 parts and accessories, or lease or rent such vehicles or motorboats. “Dealer”  
14 ~~shall~~ does not include a finance or auction dealer or a transporter.

15 (ii)(I) For a dealer in new or used cars or motor trucks, “engaged  
16 in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least 12 cars or motor  
17 trucks, or a combination thereof, in the immediately preceding year, or 24 in  
18 the two immediately preceding years.

19 (II) For a dealer in snowmobiles, motorboats, or all-terrain  
20 vehicles, “engaged in the business” means having sold or exchanged at least  
21 one snowmobile, motorboat, or all-terrain vehicle, respectively, in the  
22 immediately preceding year or two in the two immediately preceding years.



1                   (iii) a person regularly engaged and properly licensed for the  
2 short-term rental of “storage trailers” owned by them and who move these  
3 storage trailers on their own wheels over public highways;

4                   (iv) a person regularly engaged in the business of moving modular  
5 homes over public highways;

6                   (v) dealers, owners of motor vehicle auction sites, and automobile  
7 repair shop owners when engaged in the transportation of motor vehicles to  
8 and from their place of business for repair purposes; or

9                   (vi) the following, provided that the transportation and delivery of  
10 motor vehicles is a common and usual incident to their business:

11                   (I) persons towing overwidth trailers owned by them in  
12 connection with their business;

13                   (II) persons whose business is the repossession of motor  
14 vehicles; ~~and~~

15                   (III) persons whose business involves moving vehicles from  
16 the place of business of a registered dealer to another registered dealer, or  
17 between a motor vehicle auction site and a registered dealer or another motor  
18 vehicle auction site, leased vehicles to the lessor at the expiration of the lease,  
19 or vehicles purchased at the place of auction of an auction dealer to the  
20 purchaser; and



1 shall be considered to be properly registered under this title. ~~Transporter's~~ A  
2 transporter's registration plates shall not be used for any other purposes and  
3 shall not be used by the holder of such number plates for personal purposes.

4 \* \* \* Definition of All-Surface Vehicle \* \* \*

5 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 4(80) is amended to read:

6 (80) An “all-surface vehicle” or “ASV” means any non-highway  
7 recreational vehicle, except a snowmobile, when used for cross-country travel  
8 on trails or on any one of the following or combination of the following: land,  
9 water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An all-surface  
10 vehicle shall be designed for use both on land and in water, with or without  
11 tracks, shall be capable of flotation and shall be equipped with a skid-steering  
12 system, a sealed body, a fully contained cooling system, and ~~six or~~ up to eight  
13 tires designed to be inflated with an operating pressure not exceeding  
14 10 pounds per square inch as recommended by the manufacturer. An all-  
15 surface vehicle shall have a net weight of 1,500 pounds or less, shall have a  
16 width of 75 inches or less, shall be equipped with an engine of not more than  
17 50 horsepower, and shall have a maximum speed of not more than 25 miles per  
18 hour. An ASV when operated in water shall be considered to be a motorboat  
19 and shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 29, subchapter 2 of this title.  
20 An ASV operated anywhere except in water shall be subject to the provisions  
21 of chapter 31 of this title.



1 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2027(c) is amended to read:

2 (c) The Commissioner shall file and retain ~~for five years~~ every surrendered  
3 certificate of title ~~so as to permit the tracing of title of the corresponding~~  
4 ~~vehicles pursuant to section 117 of this title.~~

5 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 2092 is amended to read:

6 § 2092. ISSUANCE OF SALVAGE TITLE

7 The Commissioner shall file and maintain in the manner provided in section  
8 ~~2017~~ 117 of this title each application received and when satisfied as to its  
9 genuineness and regularity and that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a  
10 salvage certificate of title, shall issue a salvage certificate of title to the vehicle.

11 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 3810(b)(1) is amended to read:

12 (b)(1) The Commissioner shall maintain ~~at his or her central office~~ a record  
13 of all certificates of title issued by ~~him or her~~:

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

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

18 (C) ~~alphabetically, under the name of the owner; and, in the~~  
19 ~~discretion of the Commissioner, by any other method he or she determines the~~  
20 Commissioner pursuant to section 117 of this title.



1        (c) Temporary residents and foreign partnerships, firms, associations, and  
2        corporations having a place of business in this State may annually register  
3        motor vehicles owned or leased for a period of more than 30 days and operated  
4        by them or an employee.

5        (d) Notwithstanding this section, a resident who has moved into the State  
6        from another jurisdiction shall register ~~his or her~~ the resident's motor vehicle  
7        within 60 days ~~of~~ after moving into the State. ~~A person~~

8        (e) An individual shall not operate a motor vehicle nor draw a trailer or  
9        semi-trailer on any highway unless such vehicle is registered as provided in  
10       this chapter. Vehicle owners who have apportioned power units registered in  
11       this State under the International Registration Plan are exempt from the  
12       requirement to register their trailers in this State.

13       Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 303(a) is amended to read:

14       (a) The Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's duly authorized  
15       agent shall register a motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer ~~when~~ that is required  
16       or permitted to be registered in Vermont upon application ~~therefor~~, on a form  
17       prescribed by the Commissioner that is filed with the Commissioner, showing  
18       such motor vehicle to be properly equipped and in good mechanical condition,  
19       ~~is filed with him or her,~~ and accompanied by the required registration fee and  
20       evidence of the applicant's ownership of the vehicle in such form as the

1 Commissioner may reasonably require. Except for State or municipal vehicles,  
2 registrants and titled owners shall be identical.

3 \* \* \* Weight Limitations on Low-Number Plates \* \* \*

4 Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 304(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The Commissioner shall issue registration numbers 101 through 9999,  
6 which shall be known as reserved registration numbers, for pleasure cars,  
7 ~~motor trucks that are registered at the pleasure car rate~~ for less than 26,001  
8 pounds, and motorcycles in the following manner:

9 \* \* \*

10 (4) A person holding a reserved registration number on a pleasure car, a  
11 truck ~~that is registered at the pleasure car rate~~ for less than 26,001 pounds, or a  
12 motorcycle may be issued the same reserved registration number for the other  
13 authorized vehicle types, provided that the person receives ~~no~~ not more than  
14 one such plate or set of plates for each authorized vehicle type.

15 \* \* \* License Plates; Registration; Prorated Refunds \* \* \*

16 Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 327 is amended to read:

17 § 327. REFUND WHEN PLATES NOT USED

18 Subject to the conditions set forth in subdivisions ~~(1), (2), and (3)~~ (1)–(4) of  
19 this section, the Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle,  
20 snowmobile, or motorboat when the owner returns to the Commissioner either  
21 the number plates, if any, or the registration certificate. Upon cancellation of

1 the registration, the Commissioner shall notify the Commissioner of Finance  
2 and Management, who shall issue a refund as follows:

3 (1) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ canceled prior to the beginning of the  
4 registration period, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a charge  
5 of \$5.00.

6 (2) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ canceled within 30 days ~~of~~ after the date  
7 of issue, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.  
8 The owner of a motor vehicle must prove to the Commissioner's satisfaction  
9 that the number plates have not been used or attached to a motor vehicle.

10 (3) For registrations ~~cancelled~~ canceled prior to the beginning of the  
11 second year of a two-year registration period, the refund is one-half of the full  
12 amount of the two-year fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.

13 (4) For registrations canceled prior to conclusion of a five-year  
14 registration period, the refund is as follows:

15 (A) four-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
16 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the second year;

17 (B) three-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
18 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the third year;

19 (C) two-fifths of the full amount of the five-year fee paid less a  
20 charge of \$5.00 if canceled prior to the beginning of the fourth year; and



1 (3) in a space not over two inches high and two and one-half inches long  
2 in the upper left-hand corner of the windshield;

3 (4) if the operator is ~~a person~~ an individual employed by the federal,  
4 State, or local government or a volunteer emergency responder operating an  
5 authorized emergency vehicle, who places any necessary equipment in back of  
6 the windshield of the vehicle, provided the equipment does not interfere with  
7 the operator's control of the driving mechanism of the vehicle;

8 (5) on a motor vehicle that is for sale by a licensed automobile dealer  
9 prior to the sale of the vehicle, in a space not over three inches high and six  
10 inches long in the upper left-hand corner of the windshield, and in a space not  
11 over four inches high and 18 inches long in the upper right-hand corner of the  
12 windshield; ~~or~~

13 (6) if the object is a rearview mirror; or is an electronic toll-collection  
14 transponder located either between the roof line and the rearview mirror post  
15 or behind the rearview mirror; or

16 (7) if the object is shading or tinting material and the visible light  
17 transmission of that shading or tinting material is not less than the level of  
18 visible light transmission required under 49 C.F.R. § 571.205, as amended.

19 (c) Medical exemption. The Commissioner may grant an exemption to the  
20 prohibition of this section upon application from ~~a person~~ an individual  
21 required for medical reasons to be shielded from the rays of the sun and who

1 attaches to the application a document signed by a licensed physician or  
2 optometrist certifying that shielding from the rays of the sun is a medical  
3 necessity. The physician or optometrist certification shall be renewed every  
4 four years. However, when a licensed physician or optometrist has previously  
5 certified to the Commissioner that an applicant's condition is both permanent  
6 and stable, the exemption may be renewed by the applicant without submission  
7 of a form signed by a licensed physician or optometrist. Additionally, the  
8 window shading or tinting permitted under this subsection shall be limited to  
9 the vent windows or side windows located immediately to the left and right of  
10 the operator. The exemption provided in this subsection shall terminate upon  
11 the transfer of the approved vehicle and at that time the applicable window  
12 tinting shall be removed by the seller. ~~Furthermore, if the material described in~~  
13 ~~this subsection tears or bubbles or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision, it~~  
14 ~~shall be removed or replaced.~~

15 (d) Rear side window obstructions. The rear side windows and the back  
16 window may be obstructed only if the motor vehicle is equipped on each side  
17 with a securely attached mirror, ~~which~~ that provides the operator with a clear  
18 view of the roadway in the rear and on both sides of the motor vehicle.

19 (e) Removal. Any shading or tinting material that is painted or adhered on  
20 or over, or hung in back of, the windshield, vent windows, or side windows in

1 accordance with subdivision (b)(7) or subsection (c) of this section shall be  
2 removed if it tears, bubbles, or is otherwise worn to prohibit clear vision.

3 (f) Definition. As used in this section, “visible light transmission” means  
4 the amount of visible light that can pass through shading, tinting, or glazing  
5 material applied to or within the transparent portion of a window or windshield  
6 of a motor vehicle.

7 Sec. 15. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; TINTED WINDOWS

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly that a motor vehicle with shading or  
9 tinting material that is not allowed under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by  
10 Sec. 14 of this act, poses a danger to the individual operating the motor  
11 vehicle, any passengers in the motor vehicle, and other highway users and that  
12 such a motor vehicle shall fail the annual safety inspection required under  
13 23 V.S.A. § 1222.

14 Sec. 16. RULEMAKING; PERIODIC INSPECTION MANUAL; TINTED  
15 WINDOWS; OUTREACH

16 (a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall, unless extended by the  
17 Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, adopt amendments to  
18 Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-  
19 022) consistent with the legislative intent in Sec. 15 of this act to be effective  
20 not later than the effective date of Sec. 14 of this act. The amendments shall  
21 include what level of visible light transmission is required for windshields and

1 the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver under 49 C.F.R.  
2 § 571.205 as of the effective date of the amendments.

3 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the  
4 Department of Public Safety, shall implement a public outreach campaign on  
5 window tinting to provide information on the prohibitions and exceptions  
6 under 23 V.S.A. § 1125, as amended by Sec. 14 of this act, and the  
7 requirements of the Inspection of Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022), with  
8 amendments adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act consistent with  
9 subsection (a) of this section, including what level of visible light transmission  
10 is currently required for windshields and the windows to the immediate right  
11 and left of the driver under 49 C.F.R. § 571.205. The Department of Motor  
12 Vehicles shall start to disseminate information as required under this  
13 subsection (b) not later than two months prior to the effective date of Sec. 14  
14 of this act and shall disseminate information on window tinting through e-mail,  
15 bulletins, software updates, and the Department of Motor Vehicles' website.

16 \* \* \* Rusted Brake Rotors; Safety Inspection \* \* \*

17 Sec. 17. RUSTED BRAKE ROTORS; LEGISLATIVE INTENT;

18 BULLETIN; CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FAILURES

19 (a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

20 (1) the Department of Motor Vehicles provide information on the  
21 existing definition of “rust” in Department of Motor Vehicles, Inspection of

1 Motor Vehicles (CVR 14-050-022) (Periodic Inspection Manual), which is “a  
2 condition of any swelling, delamination, or pitting,” to all inspection  
3 mechanics certified by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles so there is  
4 consistency amongst inspection stations in how the Periodic Inspection Manual  
5 is interpreted and applied.

6 (2) that the presence of rust on brake rotors, by itself, does not constitute  
7 a failure for the purpose of the annual safety inspection required under  
8 23 V.S.A. § 1222 and that the presence of rust that is temporary, also known as  
9 surface rust, which sometimes results from the vehicle being parked for a  
10 period of time, not be sufficient for a motor vehicle to fail inspection because  
11 such rust does not cause diminished braking performance that prevents a motor  
12 vehicle from adequately stopping.

13 (b) Bulletin. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall issue a clarifying  
14 administrative bulletin to all inspection mechanics certified by the  
15 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that:

16 (1) details the rejection criteria for rotors and drums in the Periodic  
17 Inspection Manual;

18 (2) explains the difference between surface rust and rust that is  
19 considerable for purposes of determining if the rejection criteria are met, which  
20 requires that the existing rust be “a condition of any swelling, delamination, or  
21 pitting”; and

1           (3) provides information that an inspection mechanic shall provide to  
2           the owner of a vehicle that fails inspection because of rusting on rotors and  
3           drums.

4           (c) Contact information. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall include  
5           how to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles with questions about the  
6           annual safety inspection and the Periodic Inspection Manual on all notices of  
7           failure issued by inspection mechanics certified by the Commissioner of Motor  
8           Vehicles.

9                           \* \* \* Emergency Warning Lamps and Sirens \* \* \*

10          Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. § 1251 is amended to read:

11          § 1251. SIRENS AND ~~COLORED SIGNAL~~ EMERGENCY WARNING  
12                           LAMPS; OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE  
13                           VEHICLES

14          (a) Prohibition. A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of  
15          this State equipped with any of the following:

16                (1) ~~a siren or signal lamp colored other than amber~~ unless either a permit  
17          authorizing ~~this equipment~~ the siren, issued by the Commissioner of Motor  
18          Vehicles, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not required pursuant to section  
19          1252 of this subchapter;

1           (2) an emergency warning lamp unless either a permit authorizing the  
2           emergency warning lamp, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle  
3           or a permit is not required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter;

4           (3) a blue light of any kind unless either a permit authorizing the blue  
5           light, issued by the Commissioner, is carried in the vehicle or a permit is not  
6           required pursuant to section 1252 of this subchapter; or

7           (4) a lamp or lamps that are not emergency warning lamps and provide a  
8           flashing light in a color other than amber, except that this prohibition shall not  
9           apply to a motorcycle headlamp modulation system that meets the criteria  
10          specified in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108, codified at 49 C.F.R.  
11          § 571.108.

12          (b) Permit transfer. A permit may be transferred following the same  
13          procedure and subject to the same time limits as set forth in section 321 of this  
14          title. The Commissioner may adopt additional rules as may be required to  
15          govern the acquisition of permits and the use pertaining to sirens and ~~colored~~  
16          ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamps.

17          (b)(c) Exception for vehicles from another state. Notwithstanding the  
18          provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when responding to emergencies,  
19          law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire vehicles, or vehicles owned or  
20          leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters or rescue squad members that  
21          are registered or licensed by another state or province may use sirens and

1 ~~signal emergency warning~~ lamps in Vermont, and a permit shall not be  
2 required for such use, ~~as long as~~ provided the vehicle is properly permitted or  
3 otherwise permitted to use the sirens and emergency warning lamps without  
4 permit in its home state or province.

5 Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

6 § 1252. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

7 VEHICLES; ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR

8 COLORED EMERGENCY WARNING LAMPS, OR BOTH; USE

9 OF AMBER LAMPS

10 (a) Law enforcement vehicles.

11 ~~(1) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the~~  
12 ~~Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and~~  
13 ~~colored signal lamps in the following manner~~ Law enforcement vehicles  
14 owned and operated by the government. The following are authorized for use,  
15 without permit, on all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by the federal  
16 government, a municipality, a county, the State, or the Vermont Criminal  
17 Justice Council:

18 ~~(4)(A) Sirens, blue~~ signal emergency warning lamps, or blue and white  
19 signal emergency warning lamps, or a combination thereof, ~~may be authorized~~  
20 ~~for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement~~

1 ~~agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice~~  
2 ~~Council.~~

3 (B) A red ~~signal~~ emergency warning lamp or ~~an~~ a red and amber  
4 ~~signal emergency warning lamp, or a combination thereof, may be authorized~~  
5 ~~for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement~~  
6 ~~agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice~~  
7 ~~Council, provided that the Commissioner shall require the emergency warning~~  
8 ~~lamp or lamps be~~ is mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the  
9 vehicle.

10 ~~(C)~~(2) Law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a certified law  
11 enforcement officer.

12 (A) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
13 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and  
14 emergency warning lamps in the following manner:

15 (i) sirens, blue emergency warning lamps, or blue and white  
16 emergency warning lamps, or a combination thereof; and

17 (ii) a red emergency warning lamp or a red and amber emergency  
18 warning lamp, provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
19 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

1           (B) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
2           issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
3           both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

4           (3) Law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a certified constable.

5           (A) If the applicant is a The following are authorized for use, without  
6           permit, on all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a Vermont  
7           Criminal Justice Council certified constable, the application shall be  
8           accompanied by a certification by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly  
9           elected or appointed constable and attesting that the town for a municipality  
10          that has not voted to limit the constable's authority to engage in enforcement  
11          activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a: a red emergency warning lamp or a red  
12          and amber emergency warning lamp, provided that the emergency warning  
13          lamp is mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

14          (B) A constable for a municipality that has voted to limit the  
15          constable's authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A.  
16          § 1936a shall not operate, in the course of the constable's elected duties, a  
17          motor vehicle with a siren or an emergency warning lamp.

18          ~~(2)~~(b) Emergency services vehicles.

19          (1) Emergency services vehicles owned and operated by the  
20          government. The following are authorized for use, without permit, on all

1 emergency services vehicles owned or leased by the federal government, a  
2 municipality, or the State:

3 (A) sirens and red emergency warning lamps or red and white  
4 emergency warning lamps; and

5 (B) a blue emergency warning lamp or a blue and amber emergency  
6 warning lamp provided that the emergency warning lamp is mounted so as to  
7 be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

8 (2) Emergency services vehicles not owned and operated by the  
9 government.

10 (A) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
11 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens and  
12 emergency warning lamps in the following manner:

13 (i) Sirens and red emergency warning lamps or red and white  
14 signal emergency warning lamps may be authorized for all ambulances and  
15 other emergency medical service (EMS) vehicles, vehicles owned or leased by  
16 a fire department, vehicles used solely in rescue operations, or vehicles owned  
17 or leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters and voluntary rescue squad  
18 members, including a vehicle owned by a volunteer's employer when the  
19 volunteer has the written authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for  
20 emergency fire or rescue activities.

1           ~~(B)~~(ii) A blue signal emergency warning lamp or ~~an~~ a blue and amber  
2 signal emergency warning lamp, or a combination thereof, may be authorized  
3 for all EMS vehicles or vehicles owned or leased by a fire department,  
4 provided that the Commissioner shall require the emergency warning lamp or  
5 lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

6           ~~(3)~~ [Repealed.]

7           ~~(4)~~(B) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
8 issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
9 both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

10           ~~(5)~~(C) Upon application to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may  
11 issue a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

12           ~~(6)~~(c) Sirens and Restored vehicles. A combination of one or more of  
13 red or signal lamps, red and white signal lamps or sirens and, blue signal  
14 lamps, or blue and white signal lamps may be authorized for restored  
15 emergency or enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and  
16 lamps authorized under this ~~subdivision~~ subsection may only be activated  
17 during an exhibition, such as a car show or parade.

18           ~~(b)~~(d) Amber signal lamps. Amber signal lamps shall be used on road  
19 maintenance vehicles, service vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all  
20 registered snow removal equipment when in use removing snow on public

1 highways, and the amber lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all  
2 sides of the motor vehicle.

3 Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 1254 is added to read:

4 § 1254. EMERGENCY WARNING LAMP; DEFINITION

5 As used in sections 1251–1255 of this subchapter, “emergency warning  
6 lamp”:

7 (1) means a lamp or lamps that provide a flashing light to identify an  
8 authorized vehicle on an emergency mission that may be a rotating beacon or  
9 pairs of alternately or simultaneously flashing lamps; and

10 (2) does not include a lamp or lamps that provide an exclusively amber  
11 flashing light.

12 Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 1255(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in ~~subdivisions~~  
14 ~~subsections~~ 1252(a)(1) and (2)(b) of this ~~title~~ subchapter shall use the sirens or  
15 ~~colored-signal~~ emergency warning lamps, or both, only in the direct  
16 performance of ~~their~~ official duties. When any ~~person~~ individual other than a  
17 law enforcement officer is operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in  
18 ~~subdivision~~ subsection 1252(a)(1) of this ~~title~~ subchapter, the ~~colored-signal~~  
19 emergency warning lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When  
20 any ~~person~~ individual other than an authorized emergency medical service  
21 vehicle operator, firefighter, or authorized operator of vehicles used in rescue

1 operations is operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in ~~subdivision~~  
2 subsection 1252(a)(2)(b) of this ~~title~~ subchapter, the ~~colored signal~~ emergency  
3 warning lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded unless the operator  
4 holds a senior operator license.

5 Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 4(1) is amended to read:

6 (1) “Authorized emergency vehicle” means a vehicle of a fire  
7 department, ~~police~~ law enforcement vehicle, public and private ambulance, and  
8 a vehicle ~~to which a permit has been issued pursuant to subdivision 1252(a)(1)~~  
9 ~~or (2)~~ equipped as provided in subsections 1252(a) and (b) of this title.

10 Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 1050a(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any authorized  
12 vehicle obviously and actually engaged in work upon a highway when the  
13 vehicle displays flashing lights meeting the requirements of subsection  
14 1252(b)(d) of this title.

15 \* \* \* Child Restraint Systems \* \* \*

16 Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 1258 is amended to read:

17 § 1258. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS; ~~PERSONS~~ INDIVIDUALS  
18 UNDER AGE 18 YEARS OF AGE

19 (a) No ~~person~~ individual shall operate a motor vehicle, other than a type I  
20 school bus, in this State upon a public highway unless every occupant under  
21 age 18 years of age is properly restrained in a federally approved child

1 ~~passenger-restraining~~ restraint system as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.213, as  
2 may be amended, or a federally approved safety belt, as follows:

3 (1) ~~all children~~ a child under ~~the two years of age of one and all children~~  
4 ~~weighing less than 20 pounds, regardless of age,~~ shall be restrained in a rear-  
5 ~~facing position,~~ properly secured in a federally approved ~~child passenger~~  
6 ~~restraining~~ rear-facing child restraint system with a harness, ~~which shall not be~~  
7 ~~installed in front of an active air bag~~ as those terms are defined in 49 C.F.R.  
8 § 571.213, as may be amended;

9 (2) a child ~~weighing more than 20 pounds, and who is one year of age or~~  
10 ~~older and under the age of eight~~ five years, of age who is not properly secured  
11 in a federally approved rear-facing child restraint system in accordance with  
12 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be ~~restrained in a child passenger~~  
13 ~~restraining system~~ properly secured in a forward-facing federally approved  
14 child restraint system with a harness until the child reaches the weight or  
15 height limit of the child restraint system as set by the manufacturer; and

16 (3) a child under eight years of age who is not properly secured in a  
17 federally approved child restraint system in accordance with subdivision (1) or  
18 (2) of this subsection shall be properly secured in a booster seat, as defined in  
19 49 C.F.R. § 571.213, as may be amended;

20 (4) a child ~~eight through 17~~ under 18 years of age who is not properly  
21 secured in a federally approved child restraint system in accordance with

1 subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection shall be restrained in a safety belt  
2 system ~~or a child passenger restraining system~~;

3 (5) a child under 13 years of age shall always, if practical, ride in a rear  
4 seat of a motor vehicle; and

5 (6) no child shall be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system in the  
6 front seat of a motor vehicle that is equipped with an active passenger-side  
7 airbag unless the airbag is deactivated.

8 (b) ~~A person~~ An individual shall not be adjudicated in violation of this  
9 section if:

10 (1) the motor vehicle is regularly used to transport passengers for hire,  
11 except a motor vehicle owned or operated by a child care facility;

12 (2) the motor vehicle was manufactured without safety belts; or

13 (3) the ~~person~~ individual has been ordered by an enforcement officer, a  
14 firefighter, or an authorized civil authority to evacuate ~~persons~~ individuals  
15 from a stricken area.

16 (c) The civil penalty for violation of this section shall be as follows:

17 (1) \$25.00 for a first violation;

18 (2) \$50.00 for a second violation; and

19 (3) \$100.00 for third and subsequent violations.

20 Sec. 25. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS; PUBLIC OUTREACH

21 CAMPAIGN



1 not include an exempt vehicle title ~~authorized to be issued under subdivision~~  
2 ~~2013(a)(2) of this chapter.~~

3 Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 2002(a)(1) is amended to read:

4 (1) for any certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, ~~or~~  
5 ~~an exempt vehicle title~~, \$42.00;

6 Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

7 § 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

8 No certificate of title need be obtained for:

9 \* \* \*

10 (10) a vehicle that is more than 15 years old on January 1, 2024 that has  
11 been registered in Vermont and has not had a change in ownership since  
12 January 1, 2024.

13 Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 2016 is amended to read:

14 § 2016. COMMISSIONER TO CHECK IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

15 The Commissioner, upon receiving application for a first certificate of title  
16 ~~or exempt vehicle title~~, shall check the identification number of the vehicle  
17 shown in the application against the records of vehicles required to be  
18 maintained by section 2017 of this title and against the record of stolen and  
19 converted vehicles required to be maintained by section 2084 of this title.

20 Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 2021 is amended to read:

21 § 2021. REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE



1 (C) 40 feet or longer, not fewer than three extinguishers; and

2 (2) motorboats with a fixed fire extinguisher system in the machinery  
3 space and that are:

4 (A) less than 26 feet in length, no extinguishers required;

5 (B) 26 feet or longer but less than 40 feet, not fewer than one  
6 extinguisher; and

7 ~~(B)~~(C) 40 feet or longer, not fewer than two extinguishers.

8 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, motorboats less than 26  
9 feet in length, propelled by outboard motors, and not carrying passengers for  
10 hire need not carry portable fire extinguishers if the construction of the boats  
11 will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

12 (e)(1) The extinguishers referred to by this section are class B-I or 5-B  
13 extinguishers, but one class B-II or 20-B extinguisher may be substituted for  
14 two class B-I or 5-B extinguishers, in compliance with 46 C.F.R. Subpart  
15 25.30, as amended.

16 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, motorboats with  
17 a model year between 1953 and 2017 with previously approved fire  
18 extinguishers that are not in compliance with the types identified in subdivision  
19 (1) of this subsection need not be replaced until such time as they are no longer  
20 in good and serviceable condition.

1       ~~(e)~~(f) Every marine toilet on board any vessel operated on the waters of the  
2 State shall also incorporate or be equipped with a holding tank. Any holding  
3 tank or marine toilet designed so as to provide for an optional means of  
4 discharge to the waters on which the vessel is operating shall have the  
5 discharge openings sealed shut and any discharge lines, pipes, or hoses shall be  
6 disconnected and stored while the vessel is in the waters of this State.

7       ~~(f)~~(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the discharge of  
8 adequately treated wastes from any vessel operating under the provisions of a  
9 valid discharge permit issued by the Department of Environmental  
10 Conservation.

11       ~~(g)~~(h) Motorboats operated on waters that the U.S. Coast Guard has  
12 determined to be navigable waters of the United States and therefore subject to  
13 the jurisdiction of the United States must have lights and other safety  
14 equipment as required by U.S. Coast Guard rules and regulations.

15                               \* \* \* Vermont Numbering Provisions \* \* \*

16       Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 3307(a) is amended to read:

17       (a) A motorboat is not required to have a Vermont number under this  
18 chapter if it is:

19               (1) already covered by a number in effect that has been awarded to it  
20 under federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state if  
21 the boat has not been within the State for more than ~~90~~ 60 days;





1 (c) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section, and serious bodily  
2 injury, as defined in section 1021 of this title, or death results, shall be  
3 imprisoned for not more than 15 years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or  
4 both.

5 (d) As used in this section:

6 (1) “Airbag” means an inflatable restraint device for occupants of motor  
7 vehicles that is part of an automobile supplemental restraint system.

8 (2) “Automobile supplemental restraint system” means a passive  
9 inflatable crash protection system that a vehicle manufacturer designs to  
10 protect automobile occupants in the event of a collision in conjunction with a  
11 seat belt assembly, as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 571.209, and that consists of one  
12 or more airbags and all components required to ensure that each airbag:

13 (A) operates as designed in a crash; and

14 (B) meets federal motor vehicle safety standards for the specific  
15 make, model, and year of manufacture of the vehicle in which the airbag is  
16 installed.

17 (3) “Counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system component”  
18 means a replacement component, including an airbag, for an automobile  
19 supplemental restraint system that without the authorization of a manufacturer,  
20 or a person that supplies parts to the manufacturer, displays a trademark that is

1 identical or substantially similar to the manufacturer’s or supplier’s genuine  
2 trademark.

3 (4) “Install” and “reinstall” require the completion of installation work  
4 related to the automobile supplemental restraint system of a motor vehicle and  
5 either:

6 (A) for the motor vehicle to be returned to the owner or operator; or

7 (B) for the transfer of title for the motor vehicle.

8 (5) “Nonfunctional airbag” means a replacement airbag that:

9 (A) was previously deployed or damaged;

10 (B) has a fault that the diagnostic system for a motor vehicle detects  
11 once the airbag is installed;

12 (C) may not be sold or leased under 49 U.S.C. § 30120(j); or

13 (D) includes a counterfeit automobile supplemental restraint system  
14 component or other part or object that is installed for the purpose of misleading  
15 a motor vehicle owner or operator into believing that a functional airbag is  
16 installed.

17 (6) “Nonfunctional airbag” does not include an unrepaired deployed  
18 airbag or an airbag that is installed in a motor vehicle:

19 (A) that is a totaled motor vehicle, as defined in 23 V.S.A.  
20 § 2001(14); or

1           (B) for which the owner was issued a salvaged certificate of title  
2           pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 2091 or a similar title from another state.

3           \* \* \* Licensed Dealers; Used Vehicle Sales; Disclosures \* \* \*

4           Sec. 35. 23 V.S.A. § 466 is amended to read:

5           § 466. RECORDS; DISCLOSURES; CUSTODIAN

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

11          (1) Every vehicle or motorboat that is bought, sold, or exchanged by the  
12          licensee or received or accepted by the licensee for sale or exchange.

13          (2) Every vehicle or motorboat that is bought or otherwise acquired and  
14          dismantled by the licensee.

15          (3) The name and address of the person from whom such vehicle or  
16          motorboat was purchased or acquired, the date thereof, the name and address  
17          of the person to whom any such vehicle or motorboat was sold or otherwise  
18          disposed of and the date thereof, and a sufficient description of every such  
19          vehicle or motorboat by name and identifying numbers thereon to identify the  
20          same.

21          (4) [Repealed.]

1        (b)(1) On a form prescribed or approved by the Commissioner, a licensed  
2        dealer shall provide written disclosure to each buyer of a used motor vehicle  
3        regarding the following:

4                (A) the month in which the vehicle was last inspected pursuant to  
5        section 1222 of this title;

6                (B) the month in which the inspection shall expire;

7                (C) whether the most recent inspection was by the dealer currently  
8        selling the motor vehicle;

9                (D) a statement that the condition of the motor vehicle may be  
10       different than the condition at the last inspection, unless inspected by the dealer  
11       selling the vehicle for the current transaction;

12               (E) a statement regarding the right of a potential buyer to have the  
13       vehicle inspected by an independent qualified mechanic of their choice and at  
14       their own expense; and

15               (F) a clear and conspicuous statement, if applicable, that the vehicle  
16       is being transferred without an inspection sticker, with an expired inspection  
17       sticker, or with an inspection sticker from another state.

18               (2) The licensed dealer shall maintain and retain record of the disclosure  
19       statement, signed by both the dealer and the buyer, for two years after transfer  
20       of ownership. The record shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement

1 officer or motor vehicle inspector or other agent of the Commissioner during  
2 reasonable business hours.

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

9 \* \* \* DMV Credentials and Number Plates; Veteran Designations \* \* \*

10 Sec. 36. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

11 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State to properly honor  
12 veterans, which includes Vermonters who have served in the active military,  
13 naval, air, or space service, and who have been discharged or released from  
14 active service under conditions other than dishonorable, where active military,  
15 naval, air, or space service includes:

16 (1) active duty;

17 (2) any period of active duty for training during which the individual  
18 concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated  
19 in line of duty; and

20 (3) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual  
21 concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of

1 duty or from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a  
2 cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

3 (b) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of  
4 Motor Vehicles and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs:

5 (1) jointly determine which specialty plates should be offered to  
6 veterans so as to ensure specific recognition for those who have received a  
7 military award or decoration and those who have served in combat; and

8 (2) allow for a means for a veteran to request that a new specialty plate  
9 be designed and offered to veterans when an existing specialty plate does not  
10 provide for specific recognition of the veteran.

11 Sec. 37. 23 V.S.A. § 7(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced  
13 license may be issued to ~~a person~~ an individual, the ~~person~~ individual shall  
14 present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to  
15 determine identity and U.S. citizenship. An application shall be accompanied  
16 by: a photo identity document, documentation showing the ~~person's~~  
17 individual's date and place of birth, proof of the ~~person's~~ individual's Social  
18 Security number, and documentation showing the ~~person's~~ individual's  
19 principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include  
20 a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on  
21 the enhanced license. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and

1 including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space  
2 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and  
3 provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status  
4 specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs  
5 confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran  
6 ~~or~~; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled  
7 during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall  
8 include the term "veteran" on its face. To be issued, an enhanced license must  
9 meet the same requirements as those for the issuance of a U.S. passport.  
10 Before an application may be processed, the documents and information shall  
11 be verified as determined by the Commissioner. Any additional personal  
12 identity information not currently required by the U.S. Department of  
13 Homeland Security shall need the approval of either the General Assembly or  
14 the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules prior to the  
15 implementation of the requirements.

16 Sec. 38. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

17 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

18 (a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and  
19 be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true  
20 name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is  
21 requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other

1 identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case  
2 of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or  
3 other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification  
4 card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age  
5 and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with subsection (1) of  
6 this section. New and renewal application forms shall include a space for the  
7 applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on the applicant's  
8 identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including  
9 an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as  
10 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides a  
11 Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status specified by  
12 the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs confirms the  
13 veteran's status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged  
14 under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military,  
15 naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall include the term  
16 "veteran" on its face. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of  
17 \$29.00 at the time application for an identification card is made, except that an  
18 initial nondriver identification card shall be issued at no charge to an individual  
19 who surrenders the individual's license in connection with a suspension or  
20 revocation under subsection 636(b) of this title due to a physical or mental  
21 condition.

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\* \* \*

Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

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

\* \* \*

(j) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application, issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), and to members of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for use on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the motorcycle rate, and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. The type and style of the ~~plate~~ plates shall be determined by the Commissioner, ~~except that an American flag, or a veteran or military related emblem selected by the Commissioner and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs shall appear on one side of the plate. At a minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize recipients of the Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war, and disabled veterans.~~ An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility as a member of one of the groups recognized will be certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. The plates shall be reissued only

1 to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. The Commissioner  
2 may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for  
3 new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of plates under this  
4 subsection shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject  
5 to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new  
6 emblems shall be borne by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 40. 23 V.S.A. § 610(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Commissioner shall assign a distinguishing number to each  
10 licensee and shall furnish the licensee with a license certificate that shows the  
11 number and the licensee's full name, date of birth, and residential address,  
12 except that at the request of the licensee, the licensee's mailing address may be  
13 listed, or an alternative address may be listed if otherwise authorized by law.  
14 The certificate also shall include a brief physical description and a space for  
15 the signature of the licensee. The license shall be void until signed by the  
16 licensee. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an  
17 individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as  
18 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides  
19 proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 603(a)(3) of this title, and  
20 the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's  
21 status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~ a veteran discharged under







1 (c) Approaching or passing certain stationary vehicles. The ~~operator of~~  
2 individual operating a motor vehicle approaching or passing a stationary  
3 sanitation, maintenance, utility, or delivery vehicle with flashing lights shall  
4 exercise due care, which includes reducing speed and increasing clearance to a  
5 recommended distance of at least four feet, to pass the vehicle safely, and shall  
6 cross the center of the highway only as provided in section 1035 of this title. ~~A~~  
7 ~~person~~ An individual who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil  
8 penalty of not less than \$200.00.

9 Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 1055 is amended to read:

10 § 1055. PEDESTRIANS ON ROADWAYS

11 (a) ~~Where public sidewalks are provided, no person may walk along or~~  
12 ~~upon an adjacent roadway. [Repealed.]~~

13 (b) ~~Where public sidewalks are not provided, any~~ Any pedestrian walking  
14 along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left side of  
15 the roadway or its shoulder facing the direction of possible oncoming traffic.

16 Sec. 46. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
17 SAFETY; IDAHO STOP STUDY; REPORT

18 The Agency of Transportation, in collaboration with the Department of  
19 Public Safety and in consultation with bicycle safety organizations and other  
20 relevant stakeholders, shall study the potential effects of implementing a  
21 statewide policy that grants an individual operating a bicycle rights and

1 responsibilities at traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals that differ  
2 from those applicable to operators of motor vehicles. The study shall include  
3 consideration of the potential effects of allowing individuals operating bicycles  
4 to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights at traffic signals as stop signs,  
5 also known as an “Idaho Stop,” and of allowing individuals operating bicycles  
6 to cross intersections during a pedestrian phase at pedestrian-control devices  
7 and pedestrian-control signals. On or before December 15, 2024, the Agency  
8 shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation with its  
9 findings and recommendations.

10 Sec. 47. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; ACTIVE

11 TRANSPORTATION POLICY REPORT

12 (a) The Agency of Transportation shall prepare an Active Transportation  
13 Policy Report that provides a comprehensive review of Vermont statutes,  
14 including those in Titles 19 and 23, relating to the rights and responsibilities of  
15 vulnerable road users, in order to inform best practices and policy outcomes.

16 The Agency shall develop the Report in consultation with relevant  
17 stakeholders identified by the Agency, which shall include bicycle safety  
18 organizations.

19 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency shall submit the written  
20 Active Transportation Policy Report, which shall include a summary of the

1 Agency's review efforts and any recommendations for revisions to Vermont  
2 statutes, to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation.

3 \* \* \* License Plates for Plug-In Electric Vehicles \* \* \*

4 Sec. 48. LICENSE PLATES FOR PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES;

5 FINDINGS

6 The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs), which include plug-in hybrid  
8 electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles, provide new and unique  
9 challenges for first responders and firefighters when responding to the scene of  
10 a crash that may involve a PEV.

11 (2) PEVs are powered by high-voltage batteries, which means that if a  
12 PEV is involved in a crash resulting in a fire or in the need for extrication or  
13 rescue, or a combination of these, then fire and rescue personnel must invoke  
14 special operations to suppress the fire or initiate the extrication or rescue  
15 operation.

16 (3) Other states and countries have begun noting whether or not a motor  
17 vehicle is a PEV with a designation on the vehicle's license plate.

18 (4) First responders and firefighters in Vermont will be in a better  
19 position to safely respond to a fire, extrication, or rescue involving a motor  
20 vehicle crash if they know whether one or more vehicles involved are a PEV,  
21 which can be done, in most instances, with a license plate designation.



1           (3) For the purchaser of a PEV whose previous plate was a vanity or  
2           special number plate and who wishes to retain that plate for the newly  
3           purchased PEV, the purchaser may transfer and display the existing plate until  
4           the Commissioner issues the purchaser a new vanity or special number plate  
5           indicating that the vehicle is a PEV, except as set forth in subsection (d) of this  
6           section. The purchaser shall install the new PEV plate upon receipt.

7           (c) An individual who owns a PEV on the effective date of this act may  
8           continue to display the individual's existing plate until the individual receives a  
9           new PEV plate from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The owner shall  
10           install the new PEV plate upon receipt.

11           (d) The Commissioner is authorized to reject existing plates for transfer or  
12           renewal due to space limitations on the new PEV plates.

13           (e) On or before March 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall  
14           provide testimony to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation  
15           regarding the status of its efforts to implement license plates for PEVs as set  
16           forth in this section and in 23 V.S.A. § 304(l).

17                           \* \* \* Distracted Driving Diversion Program \* \* \*

18           Sec. 51. DISTRACTED DRIVING DIVERSION PROGRAM

19                           RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT

20           (a) The Community Justice Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, in  
21           consultation with the Court Diversion programs, the Vermont Judiciary, the

1 Department of Motor Vehicles, and representatives of Vermont law  
2 enforcement agencies, shall evaluate the feasibility of and design options for  
3 establishing a distracted driving diversion program as an alternative to civil  
4 penalties and points for individuals who violate Vermont's distracted driving  
5 laws, including 23 V.S.A. §§ 1095a, 1095b, and 1099. The issues for the  
6 Community Justice Unit to consider shall include:

7 (1) whether conducting a distracted driving diversion program is  
8 feasible;

9 (2) if so, how such a distracted driving diversion program should be  
10 structured and administered;

11 (3) the age groups to which the program should be made available;

12 (4) performance outcome measures that indicate whether the program is  
13 reducing the participants' likelihood of future distracted driving;

14 (5) whether fees should be imposed for participation in the program and,  
15 if so, what those fees should be;

16 (6) the additional resources, if any, that would be needed to implement  
17 and administer the program; and

18 (7) whether diversion or other alternatives should be made available to  
19 address other driving-related violations, especially youth violations.

20 (b) On or before December 15, 2024, the Community Justice Unit shall  
21 submit its findings and recommendations regarding a distracted driving

1 diversion program to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and  
2 on Judiciary.

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

4 Sec. 52. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 (a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this section and Sec. 28 (certificate of  
6 title exemptions; 23 V.S.A. § 2012) shall take effect retroactively on January 1,  
7 2024.

8 (b) Secs. 14 and 15 (tinted windows; 23 V.S.A. § 1125) shall take effect on  
9 July 1, 2026.

10 (c) Sec. 35 (records; disclosures; custodian; 23 V.S.A. § 466) shall take  
11 effect on July 1, 2025.

12 (d) Secs. 36–41 (DMV credentials and number plates; veteran credentials)  
13 shall take effect on passage.

14 (e) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.