

1 **[DMV PROPOSALS AS MODIFIED BY LEG. COUNSEL]**

2 Introduced by Committee on Transportation

3 Date:

4 Subject: Motor vehicles; New Motor Vehicle Arbitration; Lemon Law; mail;  
5 electronic mail; validation stickers; registration; registration fees;  
6 plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs); mobile driver’s license; mobile  
7 nondriver identification cards; total abstinence; permits; title; towing;  
8 abandoned vehicles; purchase and use tax; towing; abandoned motor  
9 vehicles; commercial driver’s licenses; Drug and Alcohol  
10 Clearinghouse; purchase and use tax; gross vehicle weights; DMV  
11 modernization project; all-terrain vehicles (ATVs); Vermont ATV  
12 Sportsman’s Association (VASA)

13 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make  
14 miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles.

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

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

17 \* \* \* New Motor Vehicle Arbitration \* \* \*

18 Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 4173(d) is amended to read:

19 (d) Within the 45-day period set forth in subsection (c) of this section but at  
20 least five days prior to hearing, the manufacturer shall have one final

1 opportunity to correct and repair the defect that the consumer claims entitles  
2 ~~him or her~~ the consumer to a refund or replacement vehicle. Any right to a  
3 final repair attempt is waived if the manufacturer does not complete it at least  
4 five days prior to hearing. If the consumer is satisfied with the corrective work  
5 done by the manufacturer or ~~his or her~~ the manufacturer's delegate, the  
6 arbitration proceedings shall be terminated without prejudice to the consumer's  
7 right to request arbitration be recommenced ~~if the repair proves unsatisfactory~~  
8 ~~for the duration of the~~ within one year following the expiration of the express  
9 warranty term in accordance with subsection 4179(a) of this title.

10 \* \* \* Definition of Mail \* \* \*

11 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 4(87) is added to read:

12 (87) “Mail,” “mail or deliver,” “mails,” “mails or delivers,” “mailing,”  
13 “mailing or delivering,” “mailed,” and “mailed or delivered” mean any method  
14 of delivery authorized by the Commissioner, which may include by hand, U.S.  
15 mail, and electronic transmission.

16 \* \* \* License Plate Stickers; Validation Stickers \* \* \*

17 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 305 is amended to read:

18 § 305. REGISTRATION PERIODS

19 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue registration  
20 certificates, ~~validation stickers,~~ and number plates upon initial registration, and  
21 registration certificates ~~and validation stickers~~ for each succeeding renewal

1 period of registration upon payment of the registration fee. Number plates so  
2 issued will become void one year from the first day of the month following the  
3 month of issue, unless a longer initial registration period is authorized by law  
4 or unless this period is extended through renewal. Registrations issued for  
5 motor trucks shall become void one year from the first day of the month  
6 following the month of issue.

7 (b) The Commissioner shall issue a registration certificate, ~~validation~~  
8 ~~sticker~~, and a number plate or number plates for each motor vehicle owned by  
9 the State, which shall be valid for a period of five years. Such motor vehicle  
10 shall be considered properly registered while the issued number plate or  
11 number plates are attached to the motor vehicle. The Commissioner may  
12 replace such number plate or number plates when in ~~his or her~~ the  
13 Commissioner's discretion their condition requires.

14 (c) ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, no plate~~  
15 ~~is valid unless the validation sticker is affixed to the rear plate in the manner~~  
16 ~~prescribed by the Commissioner in section 511 of this title. [Repealed.]~~

17 (d) When a registration for a motor vehicle, snowmobile, motorboat, or all-  
18 terrain vehicle is processed electronically, a receipt shall be available  
19 electronically and for printing. An electronic or printed receipt shall serve as a  
20 temporary registration for 10 days after the date of the transaction. An  
21 electronic receipt may be shown to an enforcement officer using a portable

1 electronic device. Use of a portable electronic device to display the receipt  
2 does not in itself constitute consent for an officer to access other contents of  
3 the device.

4 Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 326 is amended to read:

5 § 326. REFUND UPON LOSS OF VEHICLE

6 The Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle when the  
7 owner ~~thereof~~ of the motor vehicle proves to ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's  
8 satisfaction that ~~it~~ the motor vehicle has been totally destroyed by fire or,  
9 through crash or wear, has become wholly unfit for use and has been  
10 dismantled. After the Commissioner cancels the registration and the owner  
11 returns to the Commissioner either the registration certificate, or the number  
12 plate or number plates ~~and the validation sticker~~, the Commissioner shall  
13 certify to the Commissioner of Finance and Management the fact of the  
14 cancellation, giving the name of the owner of the motor vehicle, ~~his or her~~ the  
15 owner's address, the amount of the registration fee paid, and the date of  
16 cancellation. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue ~~his or~~  
17 ~~her~~ the Commissioner of Finance and Management's warrant in favor of the  
18 owner for such percent of the registration fee paid as the unexpired term of the  
19 registration bears to the entire registration period, but in no case shall the  
20 Commissioner of Finance and Management retain less than \$5.00 of the fee  
21 paid.

1 Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 364b is amended to read:

2 § 364b. ALL-SURFACE VEHICLES; REGISTRATION

3 (a) The annual fee for registration of an all-surface vehicle (ASV) shall be  
4 the sum of the fees established by sections 3305 and 3504 of this title, plus  
5 \$26.00.

6 (b) Evidence of the registration shall be a ~~sticker, as determined by the~~  
7 ~~Commissioner, affixed to~~ registration certificate and the number plate issued  
8 pursuant to chapter 31 of this title.

9 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 453(f) is amended to read:

10 (f) In any year that number plates are reused ~~and validation stickers are~~  
11 ~~issued~~, the Commissioner shall not be required to issue new number plates to  
12 persons renewing registrations under this section.

13 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 457 is amended to read:

14 § 457. TEMPORARY PLATES

15 At the time of the issuance of a registration certificate to a dealer as  
16 provided in this chapter, the Commissioner shall furnish the dealer with a  
17 sufficient number of number plates ~~and temporary validation stickers~~,  
18 temporary number plates, or temporary decals for use during the 60-day period  
19 immediately following sale of a vehicle or motorboat by the dealer. The plates  
20 and decals shall have the same general design as the plates or decals furnished  
21 individual owners, but the plates and decals may be of a material and color as

1 the Commissioner may determine. The Commissioner shall collect a fee of  
2 \$5.00 for each temporary plate issued.

3 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 458 is amended to read:

4 § 458. TEMPORARY PLATE ON SOLD OR EXCHANGED VEHICLES

5 On the day of the sale or exchange of a motor vehicle, motorboat,  
6 snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle to be registered in this State, a dealer may  
7 issue to the purchaser, for attachment to the motor vehicle, snowmobile, or all-  
8 terrain vehicle, or to be carried in or on the motorboat, a number plate ~~with~~  
9 ~~temporary validation stickers~~, a temporary number plate, or a temporary decal,  
10 provided that the purchaser deposits with such dealer, for transmission to the  
11 Commissioner, a properly executed application for the registration of such  
12 motor vehicle, motorboat, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle and the required  
13 fee. If a properly licensed purchaser either attaches to the motor vehicle,  
14 snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle or carries in the motorboat such number  
15 plate or decal, ~~he or she~~ the purchaser may operate the same for a period not to  
16 exceed 60 consecutive days immediately following the purchase. ~~An~~  
17 ~~individual shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorboat, snowmobile, or all-~~  
18 ~~terrain vehicle with a number plate with temporary validation stickers, a~~  
19 ~~temporary number plate, or a temporary decal attached to the motor vehicle or~~  
20 ~~carried in the motorboat except as provided in this section.~~

1 Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 459 is amended to read:

2 § 459. NOTICE, APPLICATION, AND FEES TO COMMISSIONER

3 (a) Upon issuing a number plate ~~with temporary validation stickers~~, a  
4 temporary number plate, or a temporary decal to a purchaser, a dealer shall  
5 have 15 calendar days, or up to 30 calendar days as applicable pursuant to  
6 subsection 2015(b) of this title, to forward to the Commissioner the application  
7 and fee, deposited with ~~him or her~~ the dealer by the purchaser, together with  
8 notice of such issue and such other information as the Commissioner may  
9 require.

10 (b) If a number plate with ~~temporary validation stickers~~, a temporary  
11 registration plate, or a temporary decal is not issued by a dealer in connection  
12 with the sale or exchange of a vehicle or motorboat, the dealer may accept  
13 from the purchaser a properly executed registration, tax, and title application  
14 and the required fees for transmission to the Commissioner. The dealer shall  
15 have 15 calendar days, or up to 30 calendar days as applicable pursuant to  
16 subsection 2015(b) of this title, to forward to the Commissioner the application  
17 and fee together with such other information as the Commissioner may require.

18 Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 465 is amended to read:

19 § 465. LOANING OF PLATES, VEHICLES, OR MOTORBOATS

20 PROHIBITED

1           A dealer shall not lend or lease registration certificates, ~~validation stickers,~~  
2           numbers, decals, or number plates that have been assigned to ~~him or her~~ the  
3           dealer under the provisions of this chapter, nor shall ~~he or she~~ the dealer lend  
4           or lease a vehicle or motorboat to which ~~his or her~~ the dealer's decals,  
5           numbers, or number plates have been attached, nor lend or lease ~~his or her~~ the  
6           dealer's decals, numbers, or number plates to a subagent.

7           Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 494 is amended to read:

8           § 494. FEES

9           The annual fee for a transporter's registration certificate, or number plate, ~~or~~  
10          ~~validation sticker~~ is \$123.00.

11          Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

12          § 511. MANNER OF DISPLAY

13           (a) Number plates. A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have  
14          displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the  
15          Commissioner may require. Such number plates shall be furnished by the  
16          Commissioner and shall show the number assigned to such vehicle by the  
17          Commissioner. If only one number plate is furnished, the same shall be  
18          securely attached to the rear of the vehicle. If two are furnished, one shall be  
19          securely attached to the rear and one to the front of the vehicle. The number  
20          plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and letters thereon  
21          shall be plainly legible at all times. They shall be kept horizontal, shall be so



1 fastened as not to swing, excepting, however, there may be installed on a  
2 motor truck or truck tractor a device that would, upon contact with a  
3 substantial object, permit the rear number plate to swing toward the front of the  
4 vehicle, provided such device automatically returns the number plate to its  
5 original rigid position after contact is released, and the ground clearance of the  
6 lower edges thereof shall be established by the Commissioner pursuant to the  
7 provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

8 ~~(b) Validation sticker. A registration validation sticker shall be~~  
9 ~~unobstructed and shall be affixed as follows:~~

10 ~~(1) for vehicles issued registration plates with dimensions of~~  
11 ~~approximately 12 x 6 inches, in the lower right corner of the rear registration~~  
12 ~~plate; and~~

13 ~~(2) for vehicles issued a registration plate with a dimension of~~  
14 ~~approximately 7 x 4 inches, in the upper right corner of the rear registration~~  
15 ~~plate. [Repealed.]~~

16 (c) Violation. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless a number  
17 plate or number plates ~~and a validation sticker~~ are displayed as provided in this  
18 section.

19 ~~(d) Failure to display a validation sticker. An operator cited for violating~~  
20 ~~subsection (e) of this section with respect to failure to display a validation~~  
21 ~~sticker on a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less~~

1 ~~than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5.00,~~  
2 ~~which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if~~  
3 ~~he or she is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of the motor~~  
4 ~~vehicle's registration. [Repealed.]~~

5 \* \* \*

6 \* \* \* Electronic Proof of Registration \* \* \*

7 Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

8 § 307. CARRYING OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE; REPLACEMENT  
9 AND CORRECTED CERTIFICATES

10 (a) ~~A person~~ An individual shall not operate a motor vehicle nor draw a  
11 trailer or semi-trailer unless all required registration certificates are carried in  
12 some easily accessible place in the motor vehicle or electronically on a  
13 portable electronic device; however, use of a device for this purpose does not  
14 in itself constitute consent for an enforcement officer to access other contents  
15 of the device.

16 \* \* \*

17 \* \* \* Registration Fees; Plug-In Electric Vehicles \* \* \*

18 Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 361 is amended to read:

19 § 361. PLEASURE CARS

20 The annual registration fee for ~~registration of any motor vehicle of the a~~  
21 ~~pleasure car type, and all vehicles powered by electricity~~ as defined in

1 subdivision 4(28) of this title, and including a pleasure car that is a plug-in  
2 electric vehicle, as defined in subdivision 4(85) of this title, shall be \$74.00,  
3 and the biennial fee shall be \$136.00.

4 Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 362 is amended to read:

5 § 362. SPECIALIZED FUEL MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTOR BUSES

6 (a) The annual registration fee for ~~the registration of~~ any “specialized fuel  
7 driven motor vehicle<sup>22</sup>, as defined in ~~section~~ subdivision 4(22) of this title, and  
8 of motor buses, as defined in section 3002 of this title, shall be one and three-  
9 quarters times the amount of the annual fee provided for a motor vehicle of the  
10 classification and weight under the terms of this chapter.

11 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the annual and biennial  
12 registration fees for a pleasure car, as defined in subdivision 4(28) of this title,  
13 that is a plug-in electric vehicle, as defined in subdivision 4(85) of this title,  
14 shall be determined pursuant to section 361 of this chapter, and the annual  
15 registration fee for a motorcycle, as defined in subdivision 4(18)(A) of this  
16 title, that is a plug-in electric vehicle, as defined in subdivision 4(85) of this  
17 title, shall be determined pursuant to section 364 of this chapter.

18 \* \* \* Mobile Driver’s Licenses; Mobile Nondriver Identification Cards \* \* \*

19 Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. § 603a is added to read:

20 § 603a. ISSUANCE OF MOBILE DRIVER’S LICENSE OR MOBILE

21 NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARD

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

2                   (1) “Credential holder” means an individual to whom a mobile driver’s  
3                   license or mobile nondriver identification card has been issued.

4                   (2) “Data field” means a discrete piece of information that appears on a  
5                   driver’s license or nondriver identification card.

6                   (3) “Full profile” means all the information provided on a driver’s  
7                   license or nondriver identification card.

8                   (4) “Limited profile” means a portion of the information provided on a  
9                   driver’s license or nondriver identification card.

10                  (5) “Mobile driver’s license” or “mobile nondriver identification card”  
11                  means an electronic representation of a driver’s license or nondriver  
12                  identification card.

13                  (b) Issuance. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a mobile  
14                  driver’s license or mobile nondriver identification card to an individual in  
15                  addition to, and not instead of, a license or a nondriver identification card if the  
16                  Commissioner has issued to the individual a driver’s license under section 603  
17                  of this chapter or a nondriver identification card under section 115 of this title.  
18                  If issued, the mobile driver’s license or mobile nondriver identification card  
19                  shall:

20                       (1) be capable of producing both a full profile and a limited profile;

21                       (2) satisfy the purpose for which the profile is presented; and

1           (3) allow the credential holder to maintain physical possession of the  
2           device on which the mobile driver’s license or mobile nondriver identification  
3           card is accessed during verification.

4           (c) Agreements with other entities. The Commissioner may enter into  
5           agreements to facilitate the issuance, use, and verification of mobile driver’s  
6           licenses, mobile nondriver identification cards, or other electronic credentials  
7           issued by the Commissioner or another state.

8           (d) Administration.

9           (1) The Commissioner may operate, or may operate through a third-  
10          party administrator, a verification system for mobile driver’s licenses and  
11          mobile nondriver identification cards.

12          (2) Access to the verification system and any data field by a person  
13          presented with a mobile driver’s license or mobile nondriver identification card  
14          requires the credential holder’s consent, and, if consent is granted, the  
15          Commissioner may release the following through the verification system:

16               (A) for a full profile, all data fields that appear on the physical  
17               credential that corresponds with the mobile driver’s license or mobile  
18               nondriver identification card that is being verified; and

19               (B) for a limited profile, only the data fields represented in the  
20               limited profile for the physical credential that corresponds with the mobile  
21               driver’s license or mobile nondriver identification card that is being verified.

1           (e) Implementation. The Commissioner may follow the applicable  
2           American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators’ Implementation  
3           guidelines and the applicable International Organization for Standardization’s  
4           standards in designing and issuing mobile driver’s licenses and mobile  
5           nondriver identification cards.

6                                   \* \* \* Total Abstinence Program \* \* \*

7           Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. § 1209a is amended to read:

8           § 1209a. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT; ALCOHOL AND  
9                                   DRIVING EDUCATION; SCREENING; THERAPY PROGRAMS

10           (a) Conditions of reinstatement. No license or privilege to operate  
11           suspended or revoked under this subchapter, except a license or privilege to  
12           operate suspended under section 1216 of this title, shall be reinstated except as  
13           follows:

14                   (1) In the case of a first suspension, a license or privilege to operate  
15           shall be reinstated only:

16                           (A) after the ~~person~~ individual has successfully completed the  
17           Alcohol and Driving Education Program, at the ~~person’s~~ individual’s own  
18           expense, followed by an assessment of the need for further treatment by a  
19           State-designated counselor, at the ~~person’s~~ individual’s own expense, to  
20           determine whether reinstatement should be further conditioned on satisfactory

1 completion of a therapy program agreed to by the ~~person~~ individual and the  
2 Drinking Driver Rehabilitation Program Director;

3 (B) if the screening indicates that therapy is needed, after the ~~person~~  
4 individual has satisfactorily completed or shown substantial progress in  
5 completing a therapy program at the ~~person's~~ individual's own expense agreed  
6 to by the ~~person~~ individual and the Driver Rehabilitation Program Director;

7 (C) if the ~~person~~ individual elects to operate under an ignition  
8 interlock RDL or ignition interlock certificate, after the ~~person~~ individual  
9 operates under the RDL or certificate for the applicable period set forth in  
10 subsection 1205(a) or section 1206 of this title, plus any extension of this  
11 period arising from a violation of section 1213 of this title; and

12 (D) if the ~~person~~ individual has no pending criminal charges, civil  
13 citations, or unpaid fines or penalties for a violation under this chapter.

14 (2) In the case of a second suspension, a license or privilege to operate  
15 shall not be reinstated until:

16 (A) the ~~person~~ individual has successfully completed an alcohol and  
17 driving rehabilitation program;

18 (B) the ~~person~~ individual has completed or shown substantial  
19 progress in completing a therapy program at the ~~person's~~ individual's own  
20 expense agreed to by the ~~person~~ individual and the Driver Rehabilitation  
21 Program Director;

1 (C) after the ~~person~~ individual operates under an ignition interlock  
2 RDL or ignition interlock certificate for 18 months or, in the case of a ~~person~~  
3 someone subject to the one-year hard suspension prescribed in subdivision  
4 1213(a)(1)(C) of this title, for one year, plus any extension of the relevant  
5 period arising from a violation of section 1213 of this title, except if otherwise  
6 provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection (a); and

7 (D) the ~~person~~ individual has no pending criminal charges, civil  
8 citations, or unpaid fines or penalties for a violation under this chapter.

9 (3) In the case of a third or subsequent suspension or a revocation, a  
10 license or privilege to operate shall not be reinstated until:

11 (A) the ~~person~~ individual has successfully completed an alcohol and  
12 driving rehabilitation program;

13 (B) the ~~person~~ individual has completed or shown substantial  
14 progress in completing a therapy program at the ~~person's~~ individual's own  
15 expense agreed to by the ~~person~~ individual and the Driver Rehabilitation  
16 Program Director;

17 (C) the ~~person~~ individual has satisfied the requirements of subsection  
18 (b) of this section; and

19 (D) the ~~person~~ individual has no pending criminal charges, civil  
20 citations, or unpaid fines or penalties for a violation under this chapter.



1           (4) The Commissioner shall waive a requirement under subdivision (2)  
2 of this subsection or subsection (b) of this section that ~~a person~~ an individual  
3 operate under an ignition interlock RDL or certificate prior to eligibility for  
4 reinstatement if:

5           (A) the ~~person~~ individual furnishes sufficient proof as prescribed by  
6 the Commissioner that ~~he or she~~ the individual is incapable of using an ignition  
7 interlock device because of a medical condition that will persist permanently or  
8 at least for the term of the suspension or, in the case of suspensions or  
9 revocations for life, for a period of at least three years; or

10           (B) the underlying offenses arose solely from being under the  
11 influence of a drug other than alcohol.

12           (b) Total Abstinence Program.

13           (1) As used in this subsection:

14           (A) “Drug” means:

15           (i) a regulated drug, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4201, that is used in  
16 any way other than as prescribed for a legitimate medical use in conformity  
17 with instructions from the prescriber; or

18           (ii) any substance or combination of substances, other than alcohol  
19 or a regulated drug, that potentially affects the nervous system, brain, or  
20 muscles of an individual so as to impair an individual’s ability to drive a  
21 vehicle safely to the slightest degree.

1           (B) “Total abstinence” means refraining from consuming any amount  
2           of alcohol or drugs at any time, regardless of whether the alcohol or drugs are  
3           consumed by an individual when attempting to operate, operating, or in actual  
4           physical control of a vehicle.

5           (2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, ~~a person~~  
6           an individual whose license or privilege to operate has been suspended or  
7           revoked for life under this subchapter may apply to the Commissioner for  
8           reinstatement of ~~his or her~~ the individual’s driving privilege if the individual  
9           satisfies the requirements set forth in subdivision (3) of this subsection (b).

10          ~~The person shall have completed three years of total abstinence from~~  
11          ~~consumption of alcohol and nonprescription regulated drugs. The use of a~~  
12          ~~regulated drug in accordance with a valid prescription shall not disqualify an~~  
13          ~~applicant for reinstatement of his or her driving privileges unless the applicant~~  
14          ~~used the regulated drug in a manner inconsistent with the prescription label.~~

15           (B) The beginning date for the period of total abstinence shall be not  
16           earlier than the effective date of the suspension or revocation from which the  
17           ~~person~~ individual is requesting reinstatement and shall not include any period  
18           during which the ~~person~~ individual is serving a sentence of incarceration to  
19           include furlough. The application shall include the applicant’s authorization  
20           for a urinalysis examination, or another examination if it is approved as a  
21           preliminary screening test under this subchapter, to be conducted prior to

1 reinstatement under this subdivision (2). The application to the Commissioner  
2 shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500.00. The Commissioner shall have the  
3 discretion to waive the application fee if the Commissioner determines that  
4 payment of the fee would present a hardship to the applicant.

5 ~~(2)~~(3) If the Commissioner or a medical review board convened by the  
6 Commissioner is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that the  
7 applicant has ~~abstained for the required number of years~~ maintained total  
8 abstinence for the three years immediately preceding the application, has  
9 successfully completed a therapy program as required under this section, and  
10 has operated under a valid ignition interlock RDL or under an ignition  
11 interlock certificate for at least three years following the suspension or  
12 revocation, and the ~~person~~ applicant provides a written acknowledgment that  
13 ~~he or she cannot drink any amount of alcohol at all and cannot consume~~  
14 ~~nonprescription regulated drugs under any circumstances~~ the applicant must  
15 maintain total abstinence at all times while participating in the Total  
16 Abstinence Program, the ~~person's~~ applicant's license or privilege to operate  
17 shall be reinstated immediately, subject to the condition that the ~~person's~~  
18 applicant's suspension or revocation will be put back in effect in the event any  
19 further investigation reveals a ~~return to the consumption of alcohol or drugs~~  
20 failure to maintain total abstinence and to ~~such~~ any additional conditions as the  
21 Commissioner may impose to advance the public interest in public safety. The

1 requirement to operate under an ignition interlock RDL or ignition interlock  
2 certificate shall not apply if the ~~person~~ applicant is exempt under subdivision  
3 (a)(4) of this section.

4 ~~(3)~~(4) If after notice and an opportunity for a hearing the Commissioner  
5 later finds that the ~~person~~ individual was violating the conditions of the  
6 ~~person's~~ individual's reinstatement under this subsection, the ~~person's~~  
7 individual's operating license or privilege to operate shall be immediately  
8 suspended or revoked for life.

9 ~~(4)~~(5) If the Commissioner finds that a ~~person~~ an individual reinstated  
10 under this subsection is suspended pursuant to section 1205 of this title or is  
11 convicted of a violation of section 1201 of this title subsequent to  
12 reinstatement under this subsection, the ~~person~~ individual shall be conclusively  
13 presumed to be in violation of the conditions of ~~his or her~~ the reinstatement.

14 ~~(5)~~(6) ~~A person~~ An individual shall be eligible for reinstatement under  
15 this subsection only once following a suspension or revocation for life.

16 ~~(6)~~(7)(A) If an applicant for reinstatement under this subsection (b)  
17 resides in a jurisdiction other than Vermont, the Commissioner may elect not  
18 to conduct an investigation. If the Commissioner elects not to conduct an  
19 investigation, ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner shall provide a letter to the  
20 applicant's jurisdiction of residence stating that Vermont does not object to the  
21 jurisdiction issuing the applicant a license if the applicant is required to operate

1 only vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device for at least a three-  
2 year period, unless exempt under subdivision (a)(4) of this section, and is  
3 required to complete any alcohol rehabilitation or treatment requirements of  
4 the licensing jurisdiction.

5 (B) If the applicant’s jurisdiction of residence is prepared to issue or  
6 has issued a license in accordance with subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6)  
7 and the applicant satisfies the requirements of section 675 of this title, the  
8 Commissioner shall update relevant State and federal databases to reflect that  
9 the applicant’s lifetime suspension or revocation in Vermont under chapter 13,  
10 subchapter 13 of this title has terminated.

11 (c) Screening and therapy programs. In the case of a second or subsequent  
12 suspension, the Commissioner shall notify the ~~person that he or she is required~~  
13 individual of the requirement to enroll in the alcohol and driving education  
14 screening and therapy program provided for in this section within 30 days ~~of~~  
15 after license suspension. If the ~~person~~ individual fails to enroll or fails to  
16 remain so enrolled until completion, the Drinking Driver Rehabilitation  
17 Program shall report such failure to the sentencing court. The court may order  
18 the ~~person~~ individual to appear and show cause why ~~he or she~~ the individual  
19 failed to comply.

1 (d) Judicial review. ~~A person~~ An individual aggrieved by a decision of a  
2 designated counselor under this section may seek review of that decision  
3 pursuant to Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 18. CURRENT TOTAL ABSTINENCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

6 (a) Not later than September 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
7 shall provide written notice to all individuals participating in or applying to  
8 participate in the Total Abstinence Program as of the effective date of this  
9 section of amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1209a and that, as of the effective date  
10 of this section, they must maintain total abstinence, as defined in 23 V.S.A.  
11 § 1209a(b)(1) as amended by Sec. 17 of this act, at all times while participating  
12 in or applying to participate in the Total Abstinence Program. Notice shall be  
13 mailed to an individual’s residence or mailing address as currently listed with  
14 the Department of Motor Vehicles.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the license or  
16 privilege to operate of an individual participating in the Total Abstinence  
17 Program on the effective date of this section may be suspended or revoked for  
18 life in accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(b)(3), as amended by Sec. 17 of this  
19 act, in the event that any further investigation reveals a failure to maintain total  
20 abstinence, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(b)(1) as amended by Sec. 17 of  
21 this act.

1                                \* \* \* Overweight Permits \* \* \*

2            Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

3            § 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

4            Except as provided in section 1400 of this title, a person or corporation shall  
5            not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total  
6            weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

7    \* \* \*

8            (3) No vehicle may exceed a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds  
9            unless the operator or owner of the vehicle has complied with the provisions of  
10           section 1400 of this title or except as otherwise provided in this section.

11    \* \* \*

12            (13) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the  
13            maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a special annual permit,  
14            which shall expire with the vehicle’s registration, except for vehicles not  
15            registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on January 1  
16            following date of issue, may be issued to a person ~~or corporation~~ operating on  
17            designated routes on the State Highway System for a fee of ~~\$415.00~~ \$382.00  
18            for each vehicle ~~that must be~~ registered for a weight of 80,000 pounds. This  
19            special permit shall be issued only for a combination of vehicle and semi-  
20            trailer or trailer equipped with five or more axles, with a distance between  
21            axles that meets the minimum requirements of registering the vehicle to 80,000

1 pounds as allowed under subdivision (4) of this section. The maximum gross  
2 load under this special permit shall be 90,000 pounds. Unless authorized by  
3 federal law, this subdivision shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D.  
4 Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

5 (14) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the  
6 axle spacing and maximum gross load provisions of subdivision (4) of this  
7 section, a special annual permit, which shall expire with the vehicle's  
8 registration, except for vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the  
9 permit shall become void on January 1 following date of issue, may be issued  
10 to a person or corporation transporting loads on vehicles on designated routes  
11 on the State Highway System for the following fees for each vehicle unit.  
12 Unless authorized by federal law, the provisions of this subdivision regarding  
13 weight limits, tolerances, or both, shall not apply to operation on the Dwight  
14 D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This  
15 special permit shall be issued for the following vehicles and conditions:

16 \* \* \*

17 (16) Notwithstanding the axle load provisions of section 1391 of this  
18 title and the maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a five or  
19 more axle truck tractor, semi-trailer combination, or truck trailer combination,  
20 when the load consists solely of unprocessed milk products as defined in  
21 subdivision 4(55) of this title, may be registered for and operated with a



1 maximum gross weight of 90,000 pounds on State highways without permit  
2 and upon posted State and town highways ~~and those highways designated as~~  
3 ~~the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense~~  
4 ~~Highways~~ when the vehicle has been issued a permit in compliance with the  
5 provisions of section 1400 of this title; however:

6 (A) Vehicles operated pursuant to this subdivision (16) shall be  
7 subject to the same axle spacing restrictions as are applied to five or more axle  
8 vehicles registered to 80,000 pounds as set forth in subdivision (4) of this  
9 section.

10 (B) ~~On those highways designated as the Dwight D. Eisenhower~~  
11 ~~National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, the provisions of~~  
12 ~~subsection 1391(e) of this title shall apply unless other axle load limits,~~  
13 ~~tolerances, or both, are authorized under federal law. Unless authorized by~~  
14 ~~federal law, the provisions of this subdivision (16) shall not apply to operation~~  
15 ~~on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense~~  
16 ~~Highways.~~

17 (C) ~~The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision (16)~~  
18 ~~shall be \$10.00 when the fee has been paid to register the vehicle for 90,000~~  
19 ~~pounds or \$382.00 when the vehicle is registered for 80,000 pounds.~~

20 [Repealed.]

1           (17) Notwithstanding the gross vehicle weight provisions of subdivision  
2           (4) of this section, a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer  
3           combination with six or more load-bearing axles registered for 80,000 pounds  
4           shall be allowed to bear a maximum of 99,000 pounds by special annual  
5           permit, which shall expire with the vehicle’s registration, except for vehicles  
6           not registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on  
7           January 1 following the date of issue, for operating on designated routes on  
8           State and town highways, subject to the following:

9                   (A) The combination of vehicles must have, as a minimum, a  
10                  distance of 51 feet between extreme axles.

11                  (B) The axle weight provisions of section 1391 of this title and  
12                  ~~subdivision 1392~~ the axle weight provisions of subdivisions (6)(A)–(D) of this  
13                  section shall also apply to vehicles permitted under this subdivision (17).

14                  (C) When determining the ~~fine~~ civil penalty for a gross overweight  
15                  violation of this subdivision (17), the ~~fine~~ civil penalty for any portion of the  
16                  first 10,000 pounds over the permitted weight shall be the same as provided in  
17                  section 1391a of this title, and for overweight violations 10,001 pounds or  
18                  more over the permitted weight, the ~~fine~~ civil penalty schedule provided in  
19                  section 1391a shall be doubled.

20                  (D) The weight permitted by this subdivision (17) shall be allowed  
21                  for foreign trucks that are registered or permitted for 99,000 pounds in a state

1 or province that recognizes Vermont vehicles for weights consistent with this  
2 subdivision (17).

3 (E) Unless authorized by federal law, the provisions of this  
4 subdivision (17) shall not apply to operation on the Dwight D. Eisenhower  
5 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

6 (F) The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision (17)  
7 shall be ~~\$415.00~~ \$382.00 for vehicles bearing up to 90,000 pounds and  
8 \$560.00 for vehicles bearing up to 99,000 pounds.

9 \* \* \*

10 (19)(A) A person issued a permit under the provisions of subdivision  
11 (13), (14), ~~(16)~~, or (17) of this section, and upon payment of a \$10.00  
12 administrative fee for each additional permit, may obtain additional permits for  
13 the same vehicle, provided the additional permit is for a lesser weight and  
14 provided the vehicle or combination of vehicles meets the minimum  
15 requirements for the permit sought as set forth in this section.

16 \* \* \*

17 \* \* \* Electronic Permits \* \* \*

18 Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

19 § 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

1 Except as provided in section 1400 of this title, a person ~~or corporation~~ shall  
2 not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total  
3 weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

4 \* \* \*

5 ~~(21) All permits issued pursuant to this section shall be carried in the~~  
6 ~~vehicle. The fine for violation of this subdivision shall be \$150.00. A~~  
7 ~~violation of this subdivision shall be considered an offense separate from an~~  
8 ~~overweight violation. [Repealed.]~~

9 Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 1455 is added to read:

10 § 1455. CARRYING OF PERMITS IN THE PERMITTED MOTOR

11 VEHICLE

12 All permits issued pursuant to this subchapter shall be carried in the motor  
13 vehicle in either paper or electronic form. Use of a portable electronic device  
14 to display an electronic permit does not in itself constitute consent for an  
15 enforcement officer to access other contents of the device. The civil penalty  
16 for violation of this section shall be \$150.00. A violation of this section shall  
17 be considered an offense separate from any other related violations.

18 \* \* \* Title \* \* \*

19 \* \* \* Prospective Elimination of 15-Year Limitation; Electronic Title \* \* \*

20 Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

21 § 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

1 No certificate of title need be obtained for:

2 \* \* \*

3 (10) a vehicle that is more than 15 years old on January 1, 2024.

4 Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 2013 is amended to read:

5 § 2013. ~~WHEN CERTIFICATE REQUIRED; ISSUANCE OF EXEMPT~~  
6 ~~VEHICLE TITLE UPON REQUEST~~

7 (a)(1) Except as provided in section 2012 of this title, the provisions of this  
8 chapter shall apply to and a title must be obtained for all motor vehicles at the  
9 time of first registration or when a change of registration is required under the  
10 provisions of section 321 of this title by reason of a sale for consideration.

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

18 (A) ~~the applicant is the owner of the vehicle;~~

19 (B) ~~the applicant is a Vermont resident; and~~

20 (C) ~~the vehicle is not subject to any liens or encumbrances.~~

21 [Repealed.]

1           ~~(3) Prior to issuing an exempt vehicle title pursuant to subdivision (2) of~~  
2           ~~this subsection, the Commissioner shall require all of the following:~~

3                     ~~(A) The applicant to furnish one of the following proofs of~~  
4           ~~ownership, in order of preference:~~

5                             ~~(i) a previous Vermont or out of state title indicating the~~  
6           ~~applicant's ownership;~~

7                             ~~(ii) an original or a certified copy of a previous Vermont or out of~~  
8           ~~state registration indicating the applicant's ownership;~~

9                             ~~(iii) sufficient evidence of ownership as determined by the~~  
10          ~~Commissioner, including bills of sale or original receipts for major~~  
11          ~~components of homebuilt vehicles; or~~

12                            ~~(iv) a notarized affidavit certifying that the applicant is the owner~~  
13          ~~of the vehicle and is unable to produce the proofs listed in subdivisions (i) – (iii)~~  
14          ~~of this subdivision (3)(A) despite reasonable efforts to do so.~~

15                     ~~(B) A notarized affidavit certifying:~~

16                             ~~(i) the date the applicant purchased or otherwise took ownership~~  
17          ~~of the vehicle;~~

18                             ~~(ii) the name and address of the seller or transferor, if known;~~

19                             ~~(iii) that the applicant is a Vermont resident; and~~

20                             ~~(iv) that the vehicle is not subject to any liens or encumbrances.~~

1           ~~(C) Assignment of a new vehicle identification number pursuant to~~  
2      ~~section 2003 of this title, if the vehicle does not have one.~~ [Repealed.]

3    \* \* \*

4      Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 2017 is amended to read:

5      § 2017. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE; RECORDS

6           (a) The Commissioner shall file each application received and, when  
7      satisfied as to its genuineness and regularity and that the applicant is entitled to  
8      the issuance of a certificate of title, shall issue a certificate of title of the  
9      vehicle, without regard to the age of the vehicle.

10           (b) The Commissioner may issue an electronic certificate of title, provided  
11      that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of the certificate of title pursuant to  
12      subsection (a) of this section.

13           (c) The Commissioner shall maintain ~~at his or her central office~~ a record of  
14      all certificates of title issued ~~by him or her for vehicles 15 years old and newer,~~  
15      and of all exempt vehicle titles issued ~~by him or her,~~ under a distinctive title  
16      number assigned to the vehicle; under the identification number of the vehicle;  
17      alphabetically, under the name of the owner; and, in the discretion of the  
18      Commissioner, by any other method ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner determines.  
19      The original records may be maintained on microfilm or electronic imaging.

1 Sec. 25. 23 V.S.A. § 2091(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) Except for vehicles for which no certificate of title is required pursuant  
3 to section 2012 of this title ~~and for vehicles that are more than 15 years old,~~  
4 any person who purchases or in any manner acquires a vehicle as salvage; any  
5 person who scraps, dismantles, or destroys a motor vehicle; or any insurance  
6 company or representative thereof who declares a motor vehicle to be a total  
7 loss, shall apply to the Commissioner for a salvage certificate of title within 15  
8 days ~~of~~ after the time the vehicle is purchased or otherwise acquired as  
9 salvage; is scrapped, dismantled, or destroyed; or is declared a total loss.

10 However, an insurance company or representative thereof proceeding under  
11 subsection (c) of this section may apply outside this 15-day window to the  
12 extent necessary to comply with the requirements of that subsection.

13 \* \* \* Nonresident Title \* \* \*

14 Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 2020 is amended to read:

15 § 2020. WITHHOLDING OF CERTIFICATE; BOND REQUIRED

16 If the Commissioner is not satisfied as to the ownership of the vehicle or  
17 that there are no undisclosed security interests in it, the Commissioner may  
18 register the vehicle but shall either:

19 (1) Withhold issuance of a certificate of title until the applicant presents  
20 documents reasonably sufficient to satisfy the Commissioner as to the



1 applicant's ownership of the vehicle and that there are no undisclosed security  
2 interests in it; ~~or,~~

3 (2) As a condition of issuing a certificate of title, require ~~the~~ an  
4 applicant who is a Vermont resident to file with the Commissioner a bond in  
5 the form prescribed by the Commissioner and executed by the applicant, and  
6 either accompanied by the deposit of cash with the Commissioner or also  
7 executed by a person authorized to conduct a surety business in this State. The  
8 bond shall be in an amount equal to one and one-half times the value of the  
9 vehicle as determined by the Commissioner and conditioned to indemnify any  
10 prior owner and lienholder and any subsequent purchaser of the vehicle or  
11 person acquiring any security interest in it, and their respective successors in  
12 interest, against any expense, loss, or damage, including reasonable attorney's  
13 fees, by reason of the issuance of the certificate of title of the vehicle or on  
14 account of any defect in or undisclosed security interest upon the right, title,  
15 and interest of the applicant in and to the vehicle. Any such interested person  
16 has a right of action to recover on the bond for any breach of its conditions, but  
17 the aggregate liability of the surety to all persons shall not exceed the amount  
18 of the bond. The bond, and any deposit accompanying it, shall be returned at  
19 the end of three years or earlier if the vehicle is no longer registered in this  
20 State and the currently valid certificate of title is surrendered to the  
21 Commissioner, unless the Commissioner has been notified of the pendency of

1 an action to recover on the bond. The Commissioner shall not issue titles to  
2 nonresidents under the provisions of this subdivision.

3 \* \* \* Towing; Abandoned Vehicles \* \* \*

4 Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 2151 is amended to read:

5 § 2151. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this subchapter:

7 (1)(A) “Abandoned motor vehicle” means:

8 (i) a motor vehicle that has remained on public or private property  
9 or on or along a highway for more than 48 hours without the consent of the  
10 owner or person in control of the property and has a valid registration plate or  
11 public vehicle identification number that has not been removed, destroyed, or  
12 altered; or

13 (ii) a motor vehicle that has remained on public or private property  
14 or on or along a highway without the consent of the owner or person in control  
15 of the property for any period of time if the vehicle does not have a valid  
16 registration plate or the public vehicle identification number has been removed,  
17 destroyed, or altered.

18 (B) “Abandoned motor vehicle” does not include a vehicle or other  
19 equipment used or to be used in construction or in the operation or  
20 maintenance of highways or public utility facilities, which is left in a manner  
21 that does not interfere with the normal movement of traffic.

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\* \* \*

(4) “Motor vehicle” means all vehicles propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power that have, or could have, one or more of the following:

- (A) a registration plate, registration decal, or certificate of number;
- (B) a public vehicle identification number; or
- (C) a certificate of title.

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 2153(a) is amended to read:

(a) A landowner on whose property an abandoned motor vehicle is located shall apply to the Department for an abandoned motor vehicle certification on forms supplied by the Department within ~~30~~ 90 days ~~of~~ after the date the vehicle was discovered on or brought to the property unless the vehicle has been removed from the property. An abandoned motor vehicle certification form shall indicate the date that the abandoned motor vehicle was discovered or brought to the property; the make, color, model, and location of the vehicle; the name, address, and telephone number of the landowner; and a certification of the public vehicle identification number, if any, to be recorded by a law enforcement officer. This subsection shall not be construed as creating a private right of action against the landowner.

1           \* \* \* Commercial Driver’s License; Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
2                                   Administration Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse \* \* \*

3       Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 4108 is amended to read:

4       § 4108. COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE, COMMERCIAL  
5                                   LEARNER’S PERMIT QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

6           (a) Before issuing a commercial driver’s license or commercial learner’s  
7       permit, the Commissioner shall request the applicant’s complete operating  
8       record from any state in which the applicant was previously licensed to operate  
9       any type of motor vehicle in the past 10 years and conduct a check of the  
10      applicant’s operating record by querying the National Driver Register  
11      established under 49 U.S.C. § 30302 ~~and~~, the Commercial Driver’s License  
12      Information System established under 49 U.S.C. § 31309, and the Commercial  
13      Driver’s License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse established under 49 C.F.R.  
14      Part 382, Subpart G and required pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 382.725 to determine  
15      if:

16           (1) the applicant has already been issued a commercial driver’s license;

17           (2) the applicant’s commercial driver’s license has been suspended,

18      revoked, or canceled; ~~or~~

19           (3) the applicant has been convicted of any offense listed in 49 U.S.C.

20      § 30304(a)(3); or





1 three-month period shall be extended day-for-day for any time that a member  
2 of a guard unit or of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10),  
3 spends outside Vermont due to activation or deployment, and an additional  
4 60 days following the ~~person's~~ individual's return from activation or  
5 deployment. Such amount shall be reported on forms supplied by the  
6 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 31. 32 V.S.A. § 8911 is amended to read:

9 § 8911. EXCEPTIONS

10 The tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply to:

11 \* \* \*

12 (22) Motor vehicles that have been registered to the applicant ~~for a~~  
13 ~~period of at least three years~~ in a jurisdiction that imposes a state sales or use  
14 tax on motor vehicles. An applicant for exemption under this subdivision shall  
15 bear the burden of establishing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the  
16 vehicle was registered in a qualifying jurisdiction ~~for the requisite period.~~

17 \* \* \*

18 \* \* \* Gross Weight Limits on Highways; Permit Portal; Report \* \* \*

19 Sec. 32. REPORT ON INCREASING GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON

20 HIGHWAYS THROUGH SPECIAL ANNUAL PERMIT AND

21 STATUS OF PERMIT PORTAL

1       (a) The Secretary of Transportation or designee, in collaboration with the  
2       Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee; the Executive  
3       Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns or designee; and the  
4       President of the Vermont Forest Products Association or designee and with the  
5       assistance of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee, shall examine  
6       adding one or more additional special annual permits to 23 V.S.A. § 1392 to  
7       allow for the operation of motor vehicles at a gross vehicle weight over 99,000  
8       pounds and shall file a written report on the examination and any  
9       recommendations with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on  
10       or before January 15, 2024.

11       (b) At a minimum, the examination shall address:

12               (1) allowing for a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer  
13               combination transporting cargo of legal dimensions that can be separated into  
14               units of legal weight without affecting the physical integrity of the load to bear  
15               a maximum of 107,000 pounds on six axles or a maximum of 117,000 pounds  
16               on seven axles by special annual permit;

17               (2) limitations for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight  
18               permits based on highway type, including limited access State highway, non-  
19               limited-access State highway, class 1 town highway, and class 2 town  
20               highway;



- 1           (3) limitations for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight  
2           permits based on axle spacing and axle-weight provisions;
- 3           (4) reciprocity treatment for foreign trucks from a state or province that  
4           recognizes Vermont vehicles permitted at increased gross weights;
- 5           (5) permit fees for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight  
6           permits;
- 7           (6) additional penalties, including civil penalties and permit revocation,  
8           for gross vehicle weight violations; and
- 9           (7) impacts of any additional special annual gross vehicle permits on the  
10           forest economy and on the management and forest cover of Vermont’s  
11           landscape.
- 12           (c) The Secretary of Transportation or designee, in consultation with the  
13           Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee, shall also include an update on  
14           the development and implementation of the centralized online permitting  
15           system that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles was authorized to initiate the  
16           design and development of pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 149,  
17           Sec. 26(a) in the report required under subsection (a) of this section.

1       \* \* \* Implementation of DMV Modernization Project; Driver Services \* \* \*

2       Sec. 33. IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
3               MODERNIZATION PROJECT

4               (a) Notwithstanding any provision of Title 23 to the contrary or rules  
5               adopted pursuant to authority under Title 23 to the contrary, the Commissioner  
6               of Motor Vehicles may make reasonable changes to existing Department of  
7               Motor Vehicles’ operations related to driver services as part of implementing  
8               the DMV Core System Modernization project provided that the Commissioner  
9               receives approval from the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee pursuant  
10              to subsection (b) of this section.

11              (b)(1) The Commissioner shall promptly report any anticipated changes to  
12              existing Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations to the Joint Transportation  
13              Oversight Committee along with a detailed explanation for how statutes or  
14              rules will need to be amended in order to have statutes and rules be consistent  
15              with Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations going forward.

16              (2) If the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee disapproves of the  
17              anticipated change to Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations, it shall  
18              provide notice of that disapproval and an explanation of the basis for the  
19              disapproval to the Commissioner within 30 calendar days following receipt of  
20              the report of the anticipated change.

1           (3) If the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee disapproves of an  
2           anticipated change to Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations under  
3           subdivision (2) of this subsection, then the Commissioner may revise and  
4           resubmit for further consideration.

5           (4) If the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee does not disapprove  
6           of the anticipated change to Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations under  
7           the authority of this section within 30 calendar days after receipt of the report  
8           of the anticipated change to Department of Motor Vehicles’ operations or  
9           receipt of a revised submittal, then the anticipated change to Department of  
10           Motor Vehicles’ operations is deemed approved.

11           (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall propose for inclusion in the  
12           2024 and 2025 Miscellaneous Motor Vehicles Bills amendments to any  
13           statutes that will be inconsistent with Department of Motor Vehicles’  
14           operations after approval by the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee  
15           pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

16           (d) This section shall continue in effect until July 1, 2025.

17           Sec. 34. REPEAL

18           Sec. 33 (implementation of Department of Motor Vehicles modernization  
19           project) of this act is repealed on July 1, 2025.

1 Sec. 35. 19 V.S.A. § 12b is amended to read:

2 § 12b. JOINT TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

3 (a) There is created a the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee  
4 composed of the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on  
5 Appropriations, the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the  
6 House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance.  
7 The Committee shall be chaired alternately by the Chairs of the House and  
8 Senate Committees on Transportation, and the two-year term shall run  
9 concurrently with the biennial session of the General Assembly. The Chair of  
10 the Senate Committee on Transportation shall chair the Committee during the  
11 2009–2010 legislative session.

12 (b) The Committee shall meet during adjournment for official duties.  
13 Meetings shall be convened by the Chair and, when practicable, shall be  
14 coordinated with the regular meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee. Members  
15 shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement pursuant to 2 V.S.A.

16 § 23. The Committee shall have the assistance of the staff of the Office of  
17 Legislative Counsel, the Office of Legislative Operations, and the Joint Fiscal  
18 Office.

19 (c) The Committee shall provide legislative oversight of the Transportation  
20 Fund revenues collection and the operation and administration of the Agency  
21 of Transportation ~~construction, paving, and rehabilitation programs~~. The

1 Secretary of Transportation and Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall report  
2 to the Committee upon request.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 36. 19 V.S.A. § 12b(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The Committee shall provide legislative oversight of the Transportation  
6 Fund revenues collection and the operation and administration of the Agency  
7 of Transportation construction, paving, and rehabilitation programs. The  
8 Secretary of Transportation ~~and Commissioner of Motor Vehicles~~ shall report  
9 to the Committee upon request.

10 \* \* \* ATV Fees and Penalties \* \* \*

11 Sec. 37. REPEALS

12 (a) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 158, Secs. 29 (July 1, 2023 amendment to  
13 23 V.S.A. § 3513(a)) and 43(c) (effective date) are repealed.

14 (b) 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.702 (July 1, 2023 amendment  
15 to 23 V.S.A. § 3513) is repealed.

16 Sec. 38. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. H.100(d) is amended to read:

17 (d) Secs. E.240.1 (7 V.S.A. § 845); E.240.2 (32 V.S.A. § 7909); ~~E.702~~  
18 ~~(Fish and Wildlife)~~; F.100(b), F.101(b), F.102(b) and F.103 (Executive  
19 Branch; Exempt Employees, Misc. Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Year 2024);  
20 F.104–106 (Judicial Branch; Statutory Salaries, Fiscal Year 2024); F.107  
21 (Sheriffs, Statutory Salaries, Fiscal Year 2024); F.108 (State’s Attorney’s;

1 Statutory Salaries; Fiscal Year 2024); and Secs. F.109(a)(2), F.109(b)(3), and  
2 F.109(c)(2) (Appropriations; Fiscal Year 2024) shall take effect on July 1,  
3 2023.

4 Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 3513(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The amount of 90 percent of the fees and penalties collected under this  
6 chapter, except interest, is allocated to the ~~Agency of Natural Resources~~  
7 Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for use by the Vermont ATV  
8 Sportsman’s Association (VASA) for development and maintenance of a  
9 Statewide ATV Trail Program, for trail liability insurance, and to contract for  
10 law enforcement services with any constable, sheriff’s department, municipal  
11 police department, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of  
12 Fish and Wildlife for purposes of trail compliance pursuant to this chapter.

13 The Departments of Public Safety and of Fish and Wildlife are authorized to  
14 contract with VASA to provide these law enforcement services. The ~~Agency~~  
15 ~~of Natural Resources~~ Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall retain  
16 for its use up to \$7,000.00 during each fiscal year to be used for administration  
17 of the State grant that supports this ~~program~~ Program.

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

19 Sec. 40. EFFECTIVE DATES

20 (a) This section and Secs. 1 (new motor vehicle arbitration; 9 V.S.A.  
21 § 4173(d)), 2 (definition of mail; 23 V.S.A. § 4(87)), 13 (electronic proof of

1 registration; 23 V.S.A. § 307), 14 and 15 (plug-in electric vehicle registration  
2 fees; 23 V.S.A. §§ 361 and 362), 18 (current Total Abstinence Program  
3 participants), 20 and 21 (electronic permits; 23 V.S.A. §§ 1392(21) and  
4 1455), and 27 and 28 (abandoned vehicles; 23 V.S.A. §§ 2151 and 2153(a))  
5 shall take effect on passage.

6 (b) Sec. 17 (Total Abstinence Program; 23 V.S.A. § 1209a) shall take  
7 effect on passage and apply to all individuals participating in or in the process  
8 of applying to participate in the Total Abstinence Program as of the effective  
9 date of this section without regard to when the individual’s license was  
10 reinstated under the Total Abstinence Program.

11 (c) Secs. 3–12 (license plate stickers; validation stickers) shall take effect  
12 on November 1, 2023.

13 (d) Secs. 22–25 (title; 23 V.S.A. §§ 2012, 2013, 2017, and 2091(a)) shall  
14 take effect upon completion of the vehicle services module of the DMV Core  
15 System Modernization project.

16 (e) Sec. 29 (commercial driver’s license clearinghouse; 23 V.S.A. § 4108)  
17 shall take effect on November 18, 2024.

18 (f) Sec. 36 (Joint Transportation Oversight Committee; 19 V.S.A. § 12b(c))  
19 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

20 (g) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2023.