

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Transportation to which was referred Senate Bill No.  
3 326 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws relating to  
4 motor vehicles” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by  
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 \* \* \* Nondriver Identification Cards \* \* \*

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

10 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

11 (a)(1) Any Vermont resident who does not have an operator’s license may  
12 make application to the Commissioner and be issued an identification card that  
13 is attested by the Commissioner as to true name, correct age, residential  
14 address unless the listing of another address is requested by the applicant or is  
15 otherwise authorized by law, and any other identifying data as the  
16 Commissioner may require that shall include, in the case of minor applicants,  
17 the written consent of the applicant’s parent, guardian, or other person standing  
18 in loco parentis.

19 \* \* \*

20 (4) An individual shall not hold at the same time an operator’s license  
21 and a nondriver identification card issued pursuant to this section.

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(g)(1) An identification card issued to a first-time applicant and any subsequent renewals by that ~~person~~ individual shall contain a photograph or imaged likeness of the applicant.

(2) The photographic identification card shall be available at a location designated by the Commissioner.

(3)(A) ~~An~~ Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (g)(3), an individual issued an identification card under this subsection that contains an imaged likeness section may renew the individual's identification card by mail.

(B) ~~Except that a renewal by an individual required to have a photograph or imaged likeness under this subsection must be made~~ An identification card issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed in person so that an updated imaged likeness of the individual is obtained not less often than at least once every nine years to permit an updated photograph or imaged likeness of the holder to be obtained.

\* \* \*

(k) ~~At the option of the applicant,~~ An applicant shall surrender the applicant's valid Vermont license may be surrendered in connection with an application for an identification card pursuant to this section. In those instances, the fee due under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by:

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\* \* \* Insufficient Funds for Fees \* \* \*

**Sec. 2.** 23 V.S.A. § 110 is amended to read:

§ 110. ~~BAD CHECKS~~ INSUFFICIENT FUNDS RECEIVED FOR FEES

(a) Whenever any check or electronic funds transfer, including a credit or debit charge, issued in payment of any fee or for any other purpose is tendered to the Department of Motor Vehicles and payment is not honored by the bank on which the check is drawn or entity to which the electronic funds transfer is submitted, the Commissioner shall send a written notice of its nonpayment to the ~~maker or person presenting the check and if the check is not immediately made good~~ who provided insufficient funds and, if the required amounts are not promptly paid as required by the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall suspend the license or registration of the person or persons. In no case shall the license or registration be reinstated until settlement has been made in full. Settlement in full shall also include the payment of any penalties assessed by the State Treasurer.

(b) The Commissioner may require payment for any transaction solely by certified check or in cash from persons whose licenses or registrations are under suspension pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or from persons who have repeatedly tendered checks or electronic payments to the Department that have not been honored ~~by the bank on which drawn~~.

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\* \* \* Penalties for Operation of Prohibited Vehicles in Smugglers' Notch \* \* \*

**Sec. 3.** 23 V.S.A. § 1006b is amended to read:

§ 1006b. SMUGGLERS' NOTCH; WINTER CLOSURE OF VERMONT  
ROUTE 108; VEHICLE OPERATION PROHIBITED

\* \* \*

(b) Vehicle operation prohibition.

\* \* \*

(2) The employer of an operator who is operating a vehicle in the scope of employment and violates this subsection or the operator of a vehicle who is operating a vehicle for personal purposes and violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$10,000.00 or, if the violation results in substantially impeding the flow of traffic on Vermont Route 108, a civil penalty of ~~\$2,000.00~~ \$20,000.00. For a second or subsequent conviction within a three-year period, the applicable penalty shall be doubled.

\* \* \*

**Sec. 4. SMUGGLERS' NOTCH; UPDATED SIGNAGE**

The Agency of Transportation shall update signage leading to Smugglers' Notch that relates to the prohibitions and penalties set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 1006b to make drivers aware of the increased penalties for operating an oversized vehicle in Smugglers' Notch that are imposed pursuant to section 3 of

1 this act.

2 \* \* \* Salvage Titles \* \* \*

3 **Sec. 5.** 23 V.S.A. § 2091 is amended to read:

4 § 2091. SALVAGE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE; FORWARDING OF  
5 PLATES AND TITLES OF CRUSHED VEHICLES

6 \* \* \*

7 (b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the application  
8 shall be accompanied by:

9 ~~(1)~~(A) any certificate of title for the vehicle; and

10 ~~(2)~~(B) any other information or documents that the Commissioner may  
11 reasonably require to establish ownership of the vehicle and the existence or  
12 nonexistence of any security interest in the vehicle.

13 (2)(A) Supporting documents used to transfer ownership of a vehicle to  
14 an insurer following payment of damages:

15 (i) shall not require a notarized signature;

16 (ii) may be signed electronically; and

17 (iii) may be printed on hard copy.

18 (B) As used in this subdivision (b)(2):

19 (i) “Signed electronically” means that a person, with the intent to  
20 sign the record, uses an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or  
21 logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person. For

1 purposes of this subdivision (b)(2), an electronic signature on a supporting  
2 document shall utilize a secure authentication system that identifies the  
3 signatory with a degree of certainty equivalent to or greater than level 2 as  
4 described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s June 2017  
5 Digital Identity Guidelines, NIST Special Publication 800-63-3, Revision 3.

6 (ii) “Supporting documents” include bills of sale, title documents,  
7 odometer disclosure forms, and powers of attorney.

8 (C) An insurer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department for  
9 any claims arising from the issuance of a certificate of title based upon  
10 supporting documents meeting the requirements of this subdivision (b)(2).

11 \* \* \*

12 \* \* \* Duplicate Titles \* \* \*

13 **Sec. 6.** 23 V.S.A. § 2022 is amended to read:

14 § 2022. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

15 (a) If a certificate of title is lost, stolen, mutilated, or destroyed or becomes  
16 illegible, the first lienholder or, if none, the owner or legal representative of the  
17 owner named in the certificate, as shown by the records of the Commissioner,  
18 shall promptly make application for and may obtain a duplicate title upon  
19 furnishing information satisfactory to the Commissioner. ~~‡~~ The duplicate title  
20 shall be mailed or, if the person is at a Department of Motor Vehicles location,  
21 hand delivered to the first lienholder named in ~~‡~~ the title or, if none, to the

1 owner.

2 \* \* \*

3 **Sec. 7.** 23 V.S.A. § 3801 is amended to read:

4 § 3801. DEFINITIONS

5 Except when the context otherwise requires, as used in this chapter:

6 \* \* \*

7 (20) “Title or certificate of title” means a written instrument or  
8 document that certifies ownership of a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain  
9 vehicle and is issued by the Commissioner or equivalent official of another  
10 jurisdiction.

11 \* \* \*

12 **Sec. 8.** 23 V.S.A. § 3815 is amended to read:

13 § 3815. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

14 (a) If a certificate of title is lost, stolen, mutilated, or destroyed or becomes  
15 illegible, the first lienholder or, if none, the owner or legal representative of the  
16 owner named in the certificate of title, as shown by the records of the  
17 Commissioner, shall promptly make application for and may obtain a duplicate  
18 title upon furnishing information satisfactory to the Commissioner. ~~‡~~ The  
19 duplicate title shall be mailed or, if the person is at a Department of Motor  
20 Vehicles location, hand delivered to the first lienholder named in ~~‡~~ the title or,  
21 if none, to the owner.

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\* \* \* Title Appeals \* \* \*

**Sec. 9.** 23 V.S.A. § 2005 is amended to read:

§ 2005. APPEAL

A person aggrieved by an act or omission of the Commissioner under this chapter may appeal to the Civil Division of the Washington Unit of the Superior Court ~~for Washington County~~ in the same manner as is provided for in other civil actions.

\* \* \* Abandoned Motor Vehicles \* \* \*

**Sec. 10.** 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

§ 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

No certificate of title need be obtained for:

\* \* \*

(2) a vehicle:

(A) owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for sale, even though incidentally moved on the highway or used for purposes of testing or demonstration; ~~or;~~

(B) used by an educational institution approved by the Agency of Education for driver training purposes; ~~or~~

(C) ~~a vehicle~~ used by a manufacturer solely for testing;

\* \* \*

1 **Sec. 11.** 23 V.S.A. § 2158 is amended to read:

2 § 2158. FEES FOR TOWING; PUBLIC PROPERTY; FUNDING

3 (a)(1) A towing service may charge a fee of up to ~~\$125.00~~ \$250.00 for  
4 towing an abandoned motor vehicle from public property under the provisions  
5 of sections 2151–2157 of this subchapter.

6 (2) This fee shall be paid to:

7 (A) ~~the a~~ towing service upon the issuance by the Department of  
8 Motor Vehicles of a certificate of abandoned motor ~~vehicles~~ vehicle under  
9 section 2156 of this title; or

10 (B) the Agency of Transportation if the Agency has a vehicle towed  
11 from a State right-of-way and submits proof acceptable to the Commissioner  
12 that the Agency has paid a towing service to tow the vehicle from the State  
13 right-of-way.

14 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify the Commissioner  
15 of Finance and Management, who shall issue payment to the towing service or  
16 Agency of Transportation, as applicable, for vehicles removed from public  
17 property.

18 \* \* \*

19 \* \* \* Diesel Fuel Tax \* \* \*

20 **Sec. 12.** 23 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:

21 § 3015. COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF TAX





1 may suspend or revoke the registration of any snowmobile registered in this  
2 State and repossess the number and certificate to it, when ~~he or she~~ the  
3 Commissioner is satisfied that:

4 \* \* \*

5 ~~(h)~~(i) Civil penalties established under this section shall be mandatory and  
6 ~~may~~ shall not be reduced.

7 \* \* \* Commercial Driver's Licenses \* \* \*

8 **Sec. 14.** 23 V.S.A. § 4107 is amended to read:

9 § 4107. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED

10 \* \* \*

11 (d)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, during an emergency  
12 declared by the Governor, an employee of a State agency or a Vermont  
13 municipality may operate a commercial motor vehicle with a weight of 26,001  
14 or more pounds without being required to hold a commercial driver's license  
15 while the emergency or emergency condition is ongoing if:

16 (A) expressly permitted to do so pursuant to the terms of the  
17 Governor's declaration; and

18 (B) the individual is performing official duties or activities related to  
19 the execution of emergency governmental functions pursuant to 49 C.F.R.  
20 383.3(d)(2).

21 (2) An individual operating a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this

1 subsection shall have a valid operator’s license issued pursuant to chapter 9 of  
2 this title or the applicable laws of another state.

3 (3) As used in this subsection, “emergency” means a situation,  
4 condition, or event that involves significant imminent or ongoing risk to public  
5 health and safety, infrastructure, or property.

6 **Sec. 15.** 23 V.S.A. § 4110 is amended to read:

7 § 4110. APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE OR  
8 COMMERCIAL LEARNER’S PERMIT

9 (a) The application for a commercial driver’s license or commercial  
10 learner’s permit shall include the following:

11 \* \* \*

12 (8)(A) The applicable fee for the commercial driver’s license being  
13 applied for. The four-year fee for a commercial driver’s license shall be  
14 \$108.00. The two-year fee shall be \$72.00. The one-year fee for a  
15 nondomiciled commercial driver’s license shall be \$40.00. In those instances  
16 where the applicant surrenders a valid Vermont Class D license, the total fees  
17 due shall be reduced by:

18 \* \* \*

19 **Sec. 16.** 23 V.S.A. § 4125 is amended to read:

20 **§ 4125. TEXTING VIOLATIONS; HANDHELD MOBILE TELEPHONE**  
21 **VIOLATIONS**

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

2 (1) “driving” “Driving” means operating a commercial motor vehicle on  
3 a public highway, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a  
4 traffic control device, or other momentary delays. “Driving” does not include  
5 operating a commercial motor vehicle with or without the motor running when  
6 the operator has moved the vehicle to the side of or off a highway and has  
7 halted in a location where the vehicle can safely remain stationary.

8 (2) “Hands-free use” means the use of a portable electronic device  
9 without utilizing either hand by employing an internal feature of, or an  
10 attachment to, the device or the commercial motor vehicle.

11 (3) “Public highway” means a State or municipal highway as defined in  
12 19 V.S.A. § 1(12).

13 (4) “Securely mounted” means the portable electronic device is placed  
14 in an accessory specifically designed or built to support the hands-free use of a  
15 portable electronic device that is not affixed to the windshield in violation of  
16 section 1125 of this title and either:

17 (A) is utilized in accordance with manufacturer specifications; or

18 (B) causes the portable electronic device to remain completely  
19 stationary under typical driving conditions.

1           (5) “Texting” means the reading or manual composing or sending of  
2           electronic communications, including text messages, instant messages, or  
3           email, using a portable electronic device.

4           (6) “Use” means the use of a portable electronic device in any way that  
5           is not a hands-free use, including an operator of a motor vehicle holding a  
6           portable electronic device in the operator’s hand or hands while operating a  
7           motor vehicle.

8           (b) General prohibition on texting.

9           (1) No operator shall engage in texting while driving a commercial  
10          motor vehicle on a public highway in Vermont or in a location that is either  
11          temporarily or permanently open to the public or the general circulation of  
12          vehicles.

13          (2) Texting while driving is permissible by operators of a commercial  
14          motor vehicle when necessary to communicate with law enforcement officials  
15          or other emergency services.

16          (3) No ~~person may~~ individual shall be issued traffic complaints alleging  
17          a violation of this section and a violation of section 1099 of this title from the  
18          same incident.

19          (4) The prohibition set forth in this subsection does not apply to:

20               (A) hands-free use;



1           (2) The application shall be signed by the owner of the motorboat and  
2 shall be accompanied by:

3            (A) an annual fee of \$31.00, or a biennial fee of \$57.00, for a  
4 motorboat in class A; ~~by~~

5            (B) an annual fee of \$49.00, or a biennial fee of \$93.00, for a  
6 motorboat in class 1; ~~by~~

7            (C) an annual fee of \$80.00, or a biennial fee of \$155.00, for a  
8 motorboat in class 2; ~~by~~ or

9            (D) an annual fee of \$153.00, or a biennial fee of \$303.00, for a  
10 motorboat in class 3.

11           (3)(A) Upon receipt of the application in approved form, the  
12 Commissioner shall enter the application upon the records of the Department  
13 of Motor Vehicles and issue to the applicant a registration certificate stating  
14 the number awarded to the motorboat and the name and address of the owner.

15            (B) The owner shall paint on or attach to each side of the bow of the  
16 motorboat the identification number in ~~such~~ the manner ~~as may be~~ prescribed  
17 by rules of the Commissioner in order that it may be clearly visible. Validation  
18 stickers shall be placed within six inches preceding the registration number on  
19 the port side of the motorboat and within six inches following the registration  
20 number on the starboard side of the motorboat.

21            (C) The registration shall be void one year from the first day of the

1 month following the month of issue in the case of annual registrations or void  
2 two years from the first day of the month following the month of issue in the  
3 case of biennial registrations.

4 (D) A motorboat of less than 10 horsepower used as a tender to a  
5 registered motorboat shall be deemed registered, at no additional cost, and  
6 shall have painted or attached to both sides of the bow the same registration  
7 number as the registered motorboat with the number “1” after the number.

8 (E) The number shall be maintained in legible condition.

9 (F) The registration certificate shall be pocket size and shall be  
10 available at all times for inspection on the motorboat for which issued,  
11 whenever the motorboat is in operation.

12 (G) A duplicate registration may be obtained upon payment of a fee  
13 of \$3.00 to the Commissioner.

14 (H) Registration fees shall be allocated in accordance with section  
15 3319 of this title.

16 ~~(c) A person engaged in the business of selling or exchanging~~ dealer in  
17 motorboats, as defined in subdivision 4(8) of this title, of a type otherwise  
18 required to be registered by this subchapter shall register and obtain  
19 registration certificates for use as described under subdivision (1) of this  
20 subsection, subject to the requirements of chapter 7 of this title. A  
21 manufacturer of motorboats may register and obtain registration certificates

1 under this section.

2 (1) A dealer motorboat registration number may be used:

3 (A) for the purpose of testing or adjusting motorboats in the  
4 immediate vicinity of ~~his or her~~ the dealer's place of business;

5 \* \* \*

6 (C) for demonstration when the prospective purchaser is operating  
7 the motorboat and is not accompanied by the dealer or ~~his or her~~ the dealer's  
8 employee, but not for more than three days;

9 \* \* \*

10 (4) The Commissioner shall issue a registration certificate of number for  
11 each identifying number awarded to the dealer in the manner described in  
12 subsection ~~(a)~~(b) of this section, except that a motorboat shall not be described  
13 in the certificate. A dealer's registration certificate expires one year from the  
14 first day of the month of issuance.

15 (5) A dealer's identifying number shall be displayed as required by  
16 subsection ~~(a)~~(b) of this section except that the number may be temporarily  
17 attached.

18 \* \* \*

19 (d)(1) Registration of a motorboat ends when the owner transfers title to  
20 another. The former owner shall immediately return directly to the  
21 Commissioner the registration certificate previously assigned to the transferred

1 motorboat with the date of sale and the name and residence of the new owner  
2 endorsed on the back of the certificate.

3 (2) When a person transfers the ownership of a registered motorboat to  
4 another, files a new application, and pays a fee of \$6.00, ~~he or she~~ the person  
5 may have registered in ~~his or her~~ the person's name another motorboat of the  
6 same class for the remainder of the registration period without payment of any  
7 additional registration fee. However, if the fee for the registration of the  
8 motorboat sought to be registered is greater than the registration fee for the  
9 transferred motorboat, the applicant shall pay the difference between the fee  
10 first paid and the fee for the class of motorboat sought to be registered.

11 \* \* \*

12 (g) The owner shall notify the Commissioner of the transfer of any part of  
13 the owner's interest other than the creation of a security interest in a motorboat  
14 numbered in this State under subsections ~~(a) and (b)~~ and (c) of this section or  
15 of the destruction or abandonment of the motorboat, within 15 days after the  
16 transfer, destruction, or abandonment. The transfer, destruction, or  
17 abandonment shall end the certificate of number for the motorboat except that  
18 in the case of a transfer of a part interest that does not affect the owner's right  
19 to operate the motorboat, the transfer shall not end the certificate of number.

20 (h) Any holder of a registration certificate shall notify the Commissioner  
21 within 15 days if ~~his or her~~ the holder's address ceases to be the address

1 appearing on the certificate and shall, as a part of the notification, furnish the  
2 Commissioner with ~~his or her~~ the holder's new address. The Commissioner  
3 may provide by rule for the surrender of the certificate bearing the former  
4 address and its replacement with a certificate bearing the new address or for  
5 the alteration of an outstanding certificate to show the new address of the  
6 holder.

7 \* \* \*

8 \* \* \* Personal Flotation Devices \* \* \*

9 **Sec. 18.** 23 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

10 § 3306. LIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT

11 \* \* \*

12 (b)(1) Personal flotation devices. Each vessel, except sailboards, shall,  
13 consistent with federal regulations, carry for each individual aboard at least  
14 one wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device that is in  
15 good and serviceable condition and capable of being used in accordance with  
16 the U.S. Coast Guard approval label.

17 \* \* \*

18 (4) Cold weather.

19 (A) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subdivision (B) of this  
20 subdivision (b)(4), on or before May 1 of each year and on or after November  
21 1 of each year, all individuals aboard a vessel, while under way and the

1 individual is on an open deck, shall wear a properly secured wearable U.S.  
2 Coast Guard–approved personal flotation device as intended by the  
3 manufacturer.

4 (B) The requirements of this subdivision (b)(4) shall not apply to an  
5 individual who is:

6 (i) aboard a vessel that is located in water that is not more than  
7 three feet deep; and

8 (ii) actively engaged in hunting or bow fishing and who holds a  
9 valid license issued under 10 V.S.A. part 4.

10 (C) A violation of this subdivision (b)(4) shall not be subject to the  
11 penalty set forth in section 3318 of this chapter or constitute a traffic violation  
12 pursuant to section 2302 of this title.

13 (5) Inspected commercial vessels. U.S. Coast Guard-inspected  
14 commercial vessels shall be exempt from the provisions of this subsection.

15 \* \* \*

16 Sec. 19. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES; COLD WEATHER  
17 REQUIREMENTS; EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

18 On or before September 30, 2026, the Departments of Motor Vehicles and  
19 of Public Safety, in consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard and the  
20 Departments of Fish and Wildlife and of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, shall  
21 develop and implement a public education and outreach campaign to make the

1 public aware of the requirements under 23 V.S.A. § 3306 b(4) related to the  
2 use of personal flotation devices from November 1 through May 1. The  
3 Outreach campaign shall include signage at boat ramps and other from which  
4 boats are regularly launched.

5 \* \* \* Kei Vehicles \* \* \*

6 **Sec. 20.** 23 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

7 § 4. DEFINITIONS

8 Except as may otherwise be provided by law, and unless the context  
9 otherwise requires in statutes relating to motor vehicles and enforcement of the  
10 law regulating vehicles, as provided in this title and 20 V.S.A. part 5, the  
11 following definitions shall apply:

12 \* \* \*

13 (28) “Pleasure car” ~~shall include~~ includes all motor vehicles not  
14 otherwise defined in this title and ~~shall include~~ includes plug-in electric  
15 vehicles, battery electric vehicles, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles as defined  
16 pursuant to subdivision (85) of this section, and kei vehicles as defined  
17 pursuant to subdivision (90) of this section.

18 \* \* \*

19 (72) “Farm truck” means a motor truck or kei truck that, at the option of  
20 the owner, may be registered under the provisions of subsection 367(f) of this  
21 title or may be unregistered when used in accordance with subsection 370(b) of

1 this title.

2 \* \* \*

3 (89) “Kei truck” means a kei vehicle that is designed, used, or  
4 maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

5 (90) “Kei vehicle” means a motor vehicle that has four wheels, an  
6 engine displacement of 660 cubic centimeters or less, an overall length of 130  
7 inches or less, an overall height of 78 inches or less, and an overall width of 60  
8 inches or less.

9 **Sec. 21.** 23 V.S.A. § 1044 is added to read:

10 § 1044. OPERATION OF KEI VEHICLES

11 (a) A kei vehicle registered as a pleasure car shall be subject to all  
12 provisions of this title that are applicable to pleasure cars.

13 (b) A kei truck registered as a farm truck shall be subject to all provisions  
14 of this title that are applicable to farm trucks.

15 (c) The Traffic Committee and political subdivisions of this State shall not  
16 adopt any rules or ordinances that would have the effect of prohibiting:

17 (1) a kei vehicle that is registered as a pleasure car from being operated  
18 in the same manner and locations as other pleasure cars; and

19 (2) a kei truck that is registered as a farm truck from being operated in  
20 the same manner and locations as other farm trucks.

21 \* \* \* Inspection Manual \* \* \*

1 **Sec. 22.** INSPECTION MANUAL; AMENDMENT

2 (a)(1) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall amend the inspection  
3 manual to increase its focus on vehicle conditions that constitute genuine  
4 safety issues; eliminate outdated procedures; and provide clear, consistent  
5 guidance for both inspection mechanics and members of the public.

6 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amendments to the  
7 inspection manual adopted pursuant to this section shall ensure that:

8 (A) the inspection manual only requires failure of an inspection  
9 when, as determined by the Commissioner, the condition of a vehicle system  
10 or component constitutes an immediate safety risk; and

11 (B) a vehicle owner shall be advised of conditions of vehicle systems  
12 and components that do not constitute an immediate safety risk but may  
13 become a safety risk at some time in the future.

14 (3) In preparing the amendments to the inspection manual, the  
15 Department shall specifically determine whether amendments to the provisions  
16 relating to the following vehicle systems and components are necessary to  
17 comply with the legislative intent set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection:

18 (A) tires;

19 (B) power steering;

20 (C) suspension;

21 (D) brake rotors;

- 1           (E) lighting;
- 2           (F) electrical systems and components;
- 3           (G) windshield;
- 4           (H) windows;
- 5           (I) windshield wipers;
- 6           (J) vehicle body; and
- 7           (K) in the discretion of the Commissioner, any other vehicle systems
- 8 or components.

9           (4) In preparing the amendments to the inspection manual, the  
10 Department shall determine whether any tests or procedures require  
11 amendment or elimination, including the on-highway road test for brakes and  
12 the headlamp aiming test.

13           (5) In preparing the amendments to the inspection manual, the  
14 Department shall provide additional visual guidance regarding when certain  
15 conditions warrant failure of an inspection.

16           (b) On or before August 1, 2026, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall:

17           (1) file with the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A.  
18 § 838 proposed amendments to the Inspection of Motor Vehicles rules (CVR  
19 14-050-022) necessary to implement the provisions of this section; and

20           (2) adopt emergency rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 to implement the  
21 provisions of this section while permanent rule amendments are pending,

1 which shall be deemed to have met the standard for emergency rulemaking set  
2 forth in 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

3 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit to the House and  
4 Senate Committees on Transportation the following reports regarding the rule  
5 amendments proposed pursuant to this section:

6 (1) Not more than five days after the Department files proposed rule  
7 amendments to the Inspection of Motor Vehicles rules (CVR 14-050-022) with  
8 the Secretary of State pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 838, the Commissioner shall  
9 submit a summary of the proposed amendments and an annotated copy of the  
10 inspection manual that shows the proposed changes.

11 (2) Not more than five days after the Department files final proposed  
12 rule amendments to the Inspection of Motor Vehicles rules (CVR 14-050-022)  
13 with the Secretary of State and Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules  
14 pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 841, the Commissioner shall submit a summary of the  
15 proposed amendments, an annotated copy of the inspection manual that shows  
16 the proposed changes, and a copy of the responsiveness summary, if any, that  
17 is submitted with the final proposed rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 841(b)(2).

18 (3) Not more than five days after the Department files the adopted rule  
19 amendments to the Inspection of Motor Vehicles rules (CVR 14-050-022) with  
20 the Secretary of State and Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules  
21 pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 843, the Commissioner shall submit a brief written

1 statement of the date on which the rule amendments were submitted pursuant  
2 to 3 V.S.A. § 843, the effective date of the rule amendments, and any changes  
3 to the final proposed rule that were approved by the Legislative Committee on  
4 Administrative Rules.

5 \* \* \* Limited-Use Specialty Vehicles \* \* \*

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

7 § 4. DEFINITIONS

8 Except as may otherwise be provided by law, and unless the context  
9 otherwise requires in statutes relating to motor vehicles and enforcement of the  
10 law regulating vehicles, as provided in this title and 20 V.S.A. part 5, the  
11 following definitions shall apply:

12 \* \* \*

13 (91) “Limited-use specialty vehicle” means a motor vehicle that is:

14 (A) built by either:

15 (i) a manufacturer that manufactures not more than 325 vehicles  
16 per year for sale in the United States; or

17 (ii) an individual and not for resale;

18 (B) maintained solely for occasional transportation, including  
19 exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest; and

20 (C) not used for daily transportation of passengers or property on any  
21 highway.

1 **Sec. 24.** 23 V.S.A. § 375 is added to read:

2 § 375. LIMITED-USE SPECIALTY VEHICLES

3 (a) The Commissioner shall issue a certificate of registration for not more  
4 than 12 additional limited-use specialty vehicles per year.

5 (b) A vehicle that has been registered as a limited-use specialty vehicle  
6 shall not be permitted to be registered as any other type of vehicle.

7 (c) The annual fee for registration of a limited-use specialty vehicle shall be  
8 \$26.00.

9 (d) A vehicle registered under this section may be used on public  
10 highways:

11 (1) in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public  
12 interest; and

13 (2) for occasional transportation of passengers or property, not to exceed  
14 one day per week.

15 **Sec. 25.** 23 V.S.A. § 1222 is amended to read:

16 § 1222. INSPECTION OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

17 \* \* \*

18 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a  
19 limited-use specialty vehicle registered pursuant to section 375 of this title  
20 shall undergo a safety inspection and visual emissions inspection each year but  
21 shall not be required to undergo a visual emissions inspection or OBD systems

1 inspection.

2 \* \* \* License Plates \* \* \*

3 **Sec. 26.** 23 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

4 § 511. MANNER OF DISPLAY

5 (a) Number plates.

6 (1) A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a  
7 conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the Commissioner may  
8 require. ~~Such~~ The number plates shall be furnished by the Commissioner and  
9 shall show the number assigned to ~~such~~ the vehicle by the Commissioner. If  
10 only one number plate is furnished, the ~~same~~ plate shall be securely attached to  
11 the rear of the vehicle. If two are furnished, one shall be securely attached to  
12 the rear and one to the front of the vehicle.

13 (2) **Except as otherwise provided by law:**

14 (A) ~~The number~~ Number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured; and  
15 the numerals and letters ~~thereon~~ on the plates shall be plainly legible at all  
16 times.

17 (B) A person shall not color, tint, or change in any manner the  
18 numerals, letters, or background of the plate from their appearance at the time  
19 the plate was issued.

20 (C) A person shall not cover or obscure any numerals or letters on a  
21 number plate with any material or substance.



1 **Sec. 28.** 23 V.S.A. § 1221 is amended to read:

2 § 1221. CONDITION OF VEHICLE; EXCESSIVE NOISE

3 (a) A motor vehicle, operated on any highway, shall be in good mechanical  
4 condition and shall be properly equipped.

5 (b)(1) An individual shall not operate on a highway a motorcycle  
6 manufactured after December 31, 1985, that is not labeled in compliance with  
7 40 C.F.R. § 205.158 and equipped with a muffler that meets the requirements  
8 of 40 C.F.R. § 205.169.

9 (2) The prohibition in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply  
10 when a motorcycle is operated in a race, contest, or demonstration of speed or  
11 skill at an authorized public exhibition held in accordance with applicable State  
12 or municipal law and land use permits.

13 (3) A motorcycle that does not meet the requirements of subdivision (1)  
14 of this subsection shall not pass an inspection required under section 1222 of  
15 this title.

16 \* \* \* Effective **Date** \* \* \*

17 **Sec. 29.** EFFECTIVE **DATE**

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

19

20

21

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2  
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6  
7

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE

DRAFT