

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

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 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Nondriver Identification Cards * * *

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

9 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

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

18 * * *

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

21 * * *

1 (m)(1) An individual sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six
2 months or more committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections
3 who is eligible for a nondriver identification card under the requirements of
4 this section shall, upon proper application and submission of documentation
5 required for a non-REAL ID or REAL ID identification card and in advance of
6 release from a correctional facility, be provided with a nondriver identification
7 card for a fee of \$0.00.

8 * * *

9 * * * Operator's Licenses * * *

10 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 613 is amended to read:

11 § 613. REPLACEMENT LICENSE

12 * * *

13 (c)(1) An individual sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six
14 months or more committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections
15 who holds an unexpired license issued under the provisions of this subchapter
16 or who held a Vermont operator's license that expired not more than three
17 years prior shall:

18 (A) be eligible to apply for a replacement license pursuant to the
19 provisions of this section; and

20 (B) upon proper application and submission of documentation
21 required for a non-REAL ID or REAL ID identification card and in advance of

1 release from a correctional facility, be provided with a replacement operator's
2 license for a fee of \$0.00.

3 (2) To obtain a replacement operator's license pursuant to the provisions
4 of this subsection, an individual shall be required to provide proof of Vermont
5 residence and the individual's mailing address upon release from the custody
6 of the Commissioner of Corrections.

7 (3) As part of reentry planning, the Department of Corrections shall
8 inquire with each individual regarding whether the individual would like, if
9 eligible, to obtain an operator's license pursuant to the provisions of this
10 section and shall provide the individual with information regarding required
11 documentation and any associated costs.

12 (4) If an individual would like to obtain an operator's license pursuant to
13 the provisions of this section and is eligible, the Department of Corrections
14 shall coordinate with the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide an
15 operator's license to the individual at the time the individual is released from
16 the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections.

17 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

18 § 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

19 * * *

20 (d)(1) An applicant shall pay \$24.00 to the Commissioner for each
21 learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

* * *

(4) A replacement learner's permit issued pursuant to subsection (g) of this section shall be issued for a fee of \$0.00.

* * *

(g)(1) An individual sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six months or more committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections who holds an unexpired learner's permit issued under the provisions of this section or who held a learner's permit issued under the provisions of this section that expired not more than two years prior shall:

(A) be eligible to apply for a replacement learner's permit pursuant to the provisions of this section; and

(B) upon proper application and submission of all required documentation in advance of release from a correctional facility, be provided with a replacement learner's permit upon release.

(2) To obtain a replacement learner's permit pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, an individual shall be required to provide proof of Vermont residence and the individual's mailing address upon release from the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections.

(3) As part of reentry planning, the Department of Corrections shall inquire with each individual regarding whether the individual would like, if eligible, to obtain a replacement learner's permit pursuant to the provisions of

1 this section and shall provide the individual with information regarding
2 required documentation and any associated costs.

3 (4) If an individual would like to obtain a replacement learner's permit
4 pursuant to the provisions of this section and is eligible, the Department of
5 Corrections shall coordinate with the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide
6 a replacement learner's permit to the individual at the time the individual is
7 released from the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections.

8 * * * Insufficient Funds for Fees * * *

9 Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 110 is amended to read:

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

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

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

6 * * *

7 * * * License Plates * * *

8 Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

9 § 511. MANNER OF DISPLAY

10 (a) Number plates.

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

18 (2)(A) ~~The number~~ Number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured,
19 and the numerals and letters ~~thereon~~ on the plates shall be plainly legible at all
20 times.

(B) Numerals and letters on number plates shall not be colored, tinted, or changed in any manner from their appearance at the time the plate was issued.

(C) Number plates shall not be covered by any material or substance that changes or tints the color of the plate, or the numerals and letters on the plate.

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

* * *

(e) Temporary and in-transit registration plates. A motor vehicle issued a temporary or in-transit registration plate under sections 312, 458, 463, and 516–518 of this title operated on any highway shall have the temporary or in-transit registration plate displayed horizontally in a conspicuous place on the rear of the vehicle, including in the rear window. The temporary or in-transit registration plate shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and

1 letters ~~thereon~~ on the plate shall be plainly legible at all times as provided
2 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

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

4 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 1006b is amended to read:

5 § 1006b. SMUGGLERS' NOTCH; WINTER CLOSURE OF VERMONT

6 ROUTE 108; VEHICLE OPERATION PROHIBITED

7 * * *

8 (b) Vehicle operation prohibition.

9 * * *

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

18 (B) In addition to the penalties set forth in subdivision (A) of this
19 subdivision (b)(2), an individual who operates a prohibited vehicle in
20 Smugglers' Notch in violation of this subsection (b) shall be guilty of a

1 moving violation and shall be assessed points pursuant to the provisions of
2 section 2502 of this title.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

5 § 2502. POINT ASSESSMENT; SCHEDULE

6 (a) Unless the assessment of points is waived by a Superior judge or a
7 Judicial Bureau hearing officer in the interests of justice and in accordance
8 with subsection 2501(b) of this title, a person operating a motor vehicle shall
9 have points assessed against the person's driving record for convictions for
10 moving violations of the indicated motor vehicle statutes in accord with the
11 following schedule: (All references are to this title of the Vermont Statutes
12 Annotated.)

13 * * *

14 (4) Five points assessed for:

15 * * *

16 (F) § 1006b. Operation of vehicle prohibited in Smugglers' Notch;

17 * * *

18 * * * Salvage Titles * * *

19 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 2091 is amended to read:

20 § 2091. SALVAGE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE; FORWARDING OF
21 PLATES AND TITLES OF CRUSHED VEHICLES

* * *

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

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

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

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

(i) shall not require a notarized signature;

(ii) may be signed electronically; and

(iii) may be printed on hard copy.

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

(i) “Signed electronically” means that a person, with the intent to sign the record, uses an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person. For purposes of this subdivision (b)(2), an electronic signature on a supporting document shall utilize a secure authentication system that identifies the signatory with a degree of certainty equivalent to or greater than level 2 as described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s June 2017 Digital Identity Guidelines, NIST Special Publication 800-63-3, Revision 3.

(C) An insurer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department for any claims arising from the issuance of a certificate of title pursuant to this section.

* * * Duplicate Titles * * *

§ 2022. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

* * *

§ 3815. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

1 (a) If a certificate of title is lost, stolen, mutilated, or destroyed or becomes
2 illegible, the first lienholder or, if none, the owner or legal representative of the
3 owner named in the certificate of title, as shown by the records of the
4 Commissioner, shall promptly make application for and may obtain a duplicate
5 title upon furnishing information satisfactory to the Commissioner. ~~It~~ The
6 duplicate title shall be mailed or, if the person is at a Department of Motor
7 Vehicles location, hand-delivered to the first lienholder named in ~~it~~ the title or,
8 if none, to the owner.

9 * * *

10 * * * Title Appeals * * *

11 Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 2005 is amended to read:

12 § 2005. APPEAL

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

17 * * * Abandoned Motor Vehicles * * *

18 Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 2012 is amended to read:

19 § 2012. EXEMPTED VEHICLES

20 No certificate of title need be obtained for:

21 * * *

1 (2) a vehicle;

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

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

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

8 * * *

9 Sec. 13. 23 V.S.A. § 2158 is amended to read:

10 § 2158. FEES FOR TOWING; PUBLIC PROPERTY; FUNDING

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

14 (2) This fee shall be paid to:

15 (A) ~~the~~ a towing service upon the issuance by the Department of
16 Motor Vehicles of a certificate of abandoned motor vehicles under section
17 2156 of this title; or

18 (B) if the Agency of Transportation has a vehicle towed from a State
19 right-of-way, to the Agency of Transportation upon submission of proof
20 acceptable to the Commissioner that the Agency of Transportation has paid a
21 towing service for towing the vehicle from the State right-of-way.

* * *

Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:

* * *

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1 to the Department of Motor Vehicles, it shall be deemed received on the date
2 shown by the postmark on the envelope containing the report only for purposes
3 of avoiding penalty and interest. In the event a mailing date is affixed to the
4 envelope by a machine owned or under the control of the person submitting the
5 report and the U.S. Post Office has corrected or changed the date stamped
6 thereon by causing the official U.S. Post Office postmark to also be imprinted
7 on the envelope, the date shown by the official Post Office postmark shall be
8 the accepted date if different from the original postmark.

9 ~~(4)~~(c) All taxes, interest, user license fees, and penalties collected by the
10 Department of Motor Vehicles under this chapter shall be paid immediately to
11 the State Treasurer and credited to the Transportation Fund.

12 ~~(5)~~(d) Notwithstanding ~~subdivision (4)~~ subsection (c) of this section, the
13 one cent per gallon fee imposed by this chapter shall be deposited into the
14 Petroleum Cleanup Fund established by 10 V.S.A. § 1941. These fees shall be
15 deemed the petroleum distributor licensing fee established by 10 V.S.A.
16 § 1942.

17 * * * Purchase and Use Tax * * *

18 Sec. 15. 32 V.S.A. § 8902 is amended to read:

19 § 8902. DEFINITIONS

20 Unless otherwise expressly provided, as used in this chapter:

21 * * *

1 (4)(A) “Purchase price” for a vehicle that is purchased outright means
2 the gross consideration, exclusive of the tax hereby imposed, that is to be paid
3 for the motor vehicle, expressed in terms of U.S. currency as of the time of the
4 sale, and shall include ~~the any cash consideration payment, if any, plus~~ as well
5 as the value of any services or property given or to be given, or both, in
6 exchange for the motor vehicle.

7 ~~(B) In the case of a lease, the purchase price shall mean~~ “Purchase
8 price” for a leased vehicle means an amount computed by subtracting the lease
9 end value of the motor vehicle from the original acquisition cost of the motor
10 vehicle. For purposes of this subdivision ~~(4)(B)~~, the original acquisition cost
11 of a motor vehicle is the gross ~~consideration~~ amount that the lessee would pay
12 for the motor vehicle if the lessee purchased the motor vehicle on the date of
13 execution of the lease contract, as stated in the lease contract or worksheet, and
14 the lease end value is the value of the motor vehicle at the end of the lease
15 period, as stated in the lease contract or worksheet or as determined under
16 section 8907 of this title.

17 (5)(A) “Taxable cost” means the purchase price as defined in
18 subdivision (4) of this section or the taxable cost as determined under section
19 8907 of this title.

20 (B) For any purchaser who has paid tax on the purchase or use of a
21 motor vehicle that was sold or traded by the purchaser or for which the

1 purchaser received payment under a contract of insurance, the taxable cost of
2 the replacement motor vehicle other than a leased vehicle shall exclude:

3 * * *

4 (ii)(I) The amount received from the sale of a motor vehicle last
5 registered or titled in the seller's name, ~~the amount~~ which shall not to exceed
6 the clean trade-in value of the same make, type, model, and year of
7 manufacture as designated by the manufacturer and as shown in the J.D. Power
8 Values, or any comparable publication, provided the sale occurs within three
9 months after the taxable purchase. The Commissioner may develop a process
10 to determine the value of vehicles that do not have a clean trade-in value in
11 J.D. Power Values.

12 (II) ~~However, this~~ The three-month period shall be extended
13 day-for-day for any time that a member of ~~a guard unit~~ the National Guard or
14 of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), spends outside
15 Vermont due to activation or deployment and an additional 60 days following
16 the individual's return from activation or deployment.

17 (III) The amount shall be reported on forms supplied by the
18 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

19 * * *

20 (13) "Month" means a period of 30 days.

* * *

* * *

* * *

* * * Operation of Snowmobiles * * *

1 Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. § 3207 is amended to read:

2 § 3207. PENALTIES AND REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF
3 REGISTRATION

4 * * *

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

7 ~~§ 3202 operation of an unregistered snowmobile~~

8 * * *

9 (g) A person who violates the provisions of section 3202 of this chapter
10 shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$450.00 for a first offense and \$500.00 for
11 a second or subsequent offense within a three year period.

12 (h) The Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner's authorized agent
13 may suspend or revoke the registration of any snowmobile registered in this
14 State and repossess the number and certificate to it, when ~~he or she~~ the
15 Commissioner is satisfied that:

16 * * *

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

19 * * * Commercial Driver's Licenses * * *

20 Sec. 18. 23 V.S.A. § 4107 is amended to read:

21 § 4107. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED

* * *

(d)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, during a weather-related emergency or an emergency condition requiring immediate response declared by the Governor, an employee of a State agency or a Vermont municipality that is providing direct assistance in relation to the emergency or emergency condition may operate a commercial motor vehicle with a weight of 26,001 or more pounds without being required to hold a commercial driver's license while the emergency or emergency condition is ongoing if:

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

(B) operation of the vehicle by the individual while the emergency or emergency condition is ongoing is permitted pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. Parts 383 and 390.

(2) An individual operating a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall have a valid operator's license issued pursuant to chapter 9 of this title or the applicable laws of another state.

(3) As used in this subsection:

(A) "Direct assistance" has the same meaning as in 49 C.F.R. § 490.5t.

(B) "Emergency" has the same meaning as in 49 C.F.R. § 490.5t.

(C) “Emergency condition requiring immediate response” has the same meaning as in 49 C.F.R. § 490.5t.

Sec. 19. 23 V.S.A. § 4110 is amended to read:

§ 4110. APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE OR
COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT

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

* * *

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

* * *

* * * Motorboat Validation Stickers * * *

Sec. 20. 23 V.S.A. § 3305 is amended to read:

§ 3305. FEES

* * *

(b)(1) Annually or biennially, the owner of each motorboat required to be registered by this State shall file an application for a number with the

1 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles on forms approved by ~~him or her~~ the
2 Commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the port side of the motorboat and within six inches following the registration
2 number on the starboard side of the motorboat.

3 (C) The registration shall be void one year from the first day of the
4 month following the month of issue in the case of annual registrations or void
5 two years from the first day of the month following the month of issue in the
6 case of biennial registrations.

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

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

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

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

17 (H) Registration fees shall be allocated in accordance with section
18 3319 of this title.

19 (c) A ~~person engaged in the business of selling or exchanging~~ dealer in
20 motorboats, as defined in subdivision 4(8) of this title, of a type otherwise
21 required to be registered by this subchapter shall register and obtain

1 registration certificates for use as described under subdivision (1) of this
2 subsection, subject to the requirements of chapter 7 of this title. A
3 manufacturer of motorboats may register and obtain registration certificates
4 under this section.

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

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

8 * * *

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

12 * * *

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

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

21 * * *

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

(g) The owner shall notify the Commissioner of the transfer of any part of the owner's interest other than the creation of a security interest in a motorboat numbered in this State under subsections ~~(a) and (b)~~ (c) of this section or of the destruction or abandonment of the motorboat, within 15 days after the transfer, destruction, or abandonment. The transfer, destruction, or abandonment shall end the certificate of number for the motorboat except that

1 in the case of a transfer of a part interest that does not affect the owner's right
2 to operate the motorboat, the transfer shall not end the certificate of number.

3 (h) Any holder of a registration certificate shall notify the Commissioner
4 within 15 days if ~~his or her~~ the holder's address ceases to be the address
5 appearing on the certificate and shall, as a part of the notification, furnish the
6 Commissioner with ~~his or her~~ the holder's new address. The Commissioner
7 may provide by rule for the surrender of the certificate bearing the former
8 address and its replacement with a certificate bearing the new address or for
9 the alteration of an outstanding certificate to show the new address of the
10 holder.

11 * * *

12 * * * Personal Flotation Devices * * *

13 Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

14 § 3306. LIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT

15 * * *

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

21 * * *

* * *

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

* * *

(89) “Minitruck” means a motor vehicle that is designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and has four wheels, an engine displacement of 660cc or less, an overall length of 130 inches or less, an overall height of 78 inches or less, and an overall width of 60 inches or less.

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

§ 1044. OPERATION OF MINITRUCKS

(a)(1) The operator of a minitruck shall not operate the minitruck on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 55 miles per hour.

(2) The operator of a minitruck may cross a highway with a speed limit in excess of 55 miles per hour if the crossing begins and ends on a highway with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour or less.

(b) The Traffic Committee or the legislative body of a municipality shall not adopt any rule or ordinance that would have the effect of prohibiting the

1 operation of a minitruck on a highway upon which a minitruck is permitted to
2 be operated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

3 * * * Inspection Manual * * *

4 Sec. 24. INSPECTION MANUAL; AMENDMENT

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

9 (2) The amendments to the inspection manual shall:

10 (A) specifically address conditions of the following vehicle
11 components and systems that would warrant failure of an inspection or that a
12 vehicle owner should be advised of:

13 (i) tires;

14 (ii) power steering;

15 (iii) suspension;

16 (iv) brake rotors;

17 (v) lighting;

18 (vi) electrical systems and components;

19 (vii) windshield;

20 (viii) windows;

21 (ix) windshield wipers;

1 (x) vehicle body; and

2 (xi) in the discretion of the Commissioner, any other vehicle
3 systems or components;

4 (B) include the elimination of the on-highway road test for brakes
5 and the headlamp aiming test; and

6 (C) provide additional visual guidance regarding when certain
7 conditions warrant failure of an inspection.

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

9 (1) file with the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A.
10 § 838 proposed amendments to the Inspection of Motor Vehicles rules (CVR
11 14-050-022) necessary to implement the provisions of this section; and

12 (2) adopt emergency rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 844 to implement the
13 provisions of this section while permanent rule amendments are pending,
14 which shall be deemed to have met the standard for emergency rulemaking set
15 forth in 3 V.S.A. § 844(a).

16 * * * Specially Constructed Vehicles * * *

17 Sec. 25. PLACEHOLDER

18 * * * Effective Date * * *

19 Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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6 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE