

2024 -- S 2240

LC003622

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, DiMario, F. Lombardi, Felag, and Gu

Date Introduced: January 24, 2024

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-3 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Vehicles" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-3-127. Special plate for the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.**

4 (a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles is empowered to make available
5 special motor vehicle registration plates for the not-for-profit entity Commercial Fisheries Research
6 Foundation. The plates shall be designed to reference the not-for-profit entity Commercial Fisheries
7 Research Foundation.

8 (b) The special plate shall be displayed upon the same registration number assigned to the
9 vehicle for which it was issued and shall be used in place of and in the same manner as the
10 registration plates issued to the vehicle. The original registration plates for the vehicle shall be
11 removed from the vehicle and returned to the division of motor vehicles. The registration certificate
12 for the plates shall be carried in the vehicle in accordance with § 31-3-9. The registration certificate
13 shall be in effect for the special plate.

14 (c) The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation motor vehicle plates shall be the same
15 size as regular motor vehicle plates and shall be designed by the Commercial Fisheries Research
16 Foundation in conjunction with the division of motor vehicles, with the design approved by the
17 Rhode Island state police.

18 (d) The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation plates shall be subject to a compliance
19 with § 31-3-117 relating to the number of minimum pre-paid order of plates per plate type (i.e.

1 passenger, commercial, etc.) and any required payment. The Commercial Fisheries Research
2 Foundation plates shall not be issued unless the minimum order requirements are met. The initial
3 order will be handled by the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and shall not be submitted
4 to the division of motor vehicles for production until the minimum order(s) have been met and the
5 proper paper work submitted to the division.

6 (e) The administrator of motor vehicles shall develop prepayment procedures and any other
7 procedures deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

8 (f) In addition to the regular prescribed motor vehicle registration fee, Commercial
9 Fisheries Research Foundation plates shall be subject to a forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge.

10 (g) The forty dollar (\$40.00) issuance surcharge shall be allocated as follows: twenty
11 dollars (\$20.00) shall be allocated to the general fund and the remaining twenty dollars (\$20.00)
12 shall be distributed annually to the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to conduct
13 collaborative fisheries research and education projects to advance the achievement of sustainable
14 fisheries.

15 (h) A ten dollar (\$10.00) surcharge for subsequent registration renewals shall be allocated
16 to the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.

17 (i) In consideration of the receipt of funds from the registration of Commercial Fisheries
18 Research Foundation plates, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation must use any Rhode
19 Island sourced funds in and for the benefit of Rhode Island based charitable organizations.

20 (j) Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation will be required to submit an annual
21 accounting report before such monies are distributed.

22 (k) There shall be no refunds for early cancellation of Commercial Fisheries Research
23 Foundation plates.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect six (6) months after passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would authorize the division of motor vehicles to issue special license plates in
2 recognition of The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.

3 This act would take effect six (6) months after passage.

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