

2020 -- S 2689

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - RIGHT-OF-WAY

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Archambault, Lombardi, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 27, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Rhode Island State Police)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-17-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-17 entitled "Right-of-
2 Way" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-17-5. ~~Entering from private road or driveway.~~ Entering from or onto a private**
4 **road or driveway.**

5 (a) The driver of a vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from a private road or driveway
6 shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the highway and to all pedestrians
7 attempting to cross the private road driveway or highway. Violations of this section are subject to
8 the fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

9 (b) The driver of a vehicle about to enter a private road or driveway from a highway shall
10 yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the highway and to all pedestrians attempting
11 to cross the private road, driveway or highway. Violations of this section are subject to the fines
12 enumerated in § 31-41.1-4, unless the violation results in bodily injury, serious bodily injury or
13 death to any person, other than the offending operator under this section. When bodily injury of
14 any person, other than the offending operator of any motor vehicle, is caused by violation of this
15 section, the offending operator shall be fined two hundred dollars (\$200). When serious bodily
16 injury of any person, other than the offending operator of any motor vehicle, is caused by violation
17 of this section, the offending operator shall be fined five hundred dollars (\$500) and his/her driver's
18 license shall be suspended for a period of three (3) months. When the death of any person, other
19 than the offending operator of any motor vehicle, is caused by violation of this section, the

1 offending operator shall be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be
2 suspended for a period of one year.

3 (c) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a
4 substantial risk of death, causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of
5 the function of any bodily member or organ.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would make it a traffic offense for a motorist to fail to yield the right-of-way when
- 2 leaving a public roadway to enter or cross a private road or driveway.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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