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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOAD LIMITS

Introduced By: Senator James E. Doyle

Date Introduced: March 23, 2011

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 31-25 of the General Laws entitled "Size, Weight, and Load  
2 Limits" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **31-25-30. Axle restriction on the Pawtucket River Bridge and the Sakonnet River**  
4 **Bridge. -- (a) It shall be unlawful to transport or operate over or upon the Pawtucket River Bridge**  
5 **or the Sakonnet River Bridge, any single vehicle equipped with more than two (2) axles or any**  
6 **combination vehicle equipped with more than two (2) axles per unit except those listed in this**  
7 **section.**

8           **(b) The director of the department of transportation is directed to post signs to limit**  
9 **access as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section.**

10           **(c) The following vehicles shall be exempt from the provisions of this section: any and all**  
11 **emergency vehicles, state vehicles, municipal vehicles, truck tractors as defined in section 31-1-4**  
12 **and Rhode Island public transit authority vehicles.**

13           **(d) For the purposes of this section, "carrier" means and includes any company or person**  
14 **who furthers their commercial or private enterprise by use of the vehicle.**

15           **(e) Any carrier operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of this section**  
16 **shall be fined three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the first offense, not to exceed five thousand**  
17 **dollars (\$5,000) for each and every subsequent offense.**

18           **(f) Nothing in this provision shall waive or modify existing restrictions on the bridges as**  
19 **defined in section 31-25-27.**

1           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on June 12, 2011, and shall be repealed effective  
2 three (3) years subsequent to such date or upon the closure of the existing structures.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would restrict single vehicles equipped with more than two (2) axles or any  
2 combination vehicle equipped with more than two (2) axles per unit from operating over or upon  
3 the Pawtucket River Bridge or the Sakonnet River Bridge.

4           This act would take effect on June 12, 2011, and would be repealed effective three (3)  
5 years subsequent to such date or upon the closure of the existing structures.

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