



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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January 18, 2022

The Honorable Raymond A. Hull  
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2022 H-6636- AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES  
– QUADRICYCLE PASSENGER VEHICLES**

Dear Chairperson Hull:

The Division of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) respectfully requests amendments to House Bill 6636, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles-Quadricycle Passenger Vehicles, to: (1) clarify the type of license required to operate quadricycles; and (2) specify that quadricycles are not required to be registered at the DMV.

The proposed bill would authorize cities and towns to enact ordinances that regulate quadricycles and permit their use on all roads where bicycle use is permitted. The proposed bill also requires all quadricycle operators to hold an operator’s license and all owners and operators to maintain minimum liability insurance. The proposed bill further provides that use of these vehicles is subject to approval by the local chief of police.

Pursuant to federal law, a commercial driver’s license (“CDL”) with, at a minimum, a “P” endorsement is required for operation of any motor vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. The proposed bill would allow the operation of quadricycles that carry 16 passengers and an operator, for a total of 17 passengers. Therefore, operators of quadricycles with the maximum authorized capacity would need to hold a CDL with, at a minimum, a “P” endorsement. Additionally, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-10-5, a chauffeurs’ license is required for the operation of vehicles used for the transportation of persons for compensation. Presumably, quadricycles will be operated by commercial entities and provide rides to passengers for a fee, as seen in other states where quadricycles can operate. The DMV respectfully requests an amendment to the proposed bill to clarify that quadricycle operators are required to hold a chauffeurs’ license or a CDL, depending on the type of quadricycle being operated. Alternatively, the maximum authorized capacity

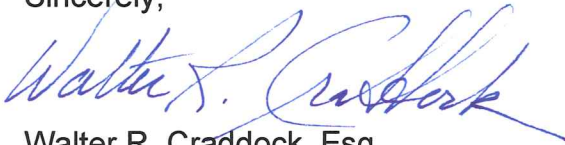
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could be reduced to 15 passengers, including the operator, to avoid the need for operators to obtain a CDL and only require that they hold a chauffeurs' license.

The proposed bill also defines quadricycles as "a four-wheeled vehicle propelled by operator and passengers pedaling with support, as needed from a battery powered engine" and specifies that the "motor is used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and shall not be capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty (20) miles per hour." In essence, quadricycles are larger versions of electric motorized bicycles that, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-3-2.2, are not required to be registered at the DMV. The DMV also respectfully requests an amendment to specify that quadricycles are not required to be registered at the DMV.

The DMV looks forward to working with the sponsor going forward to draft revisions to the proposed bill that are mutually agreeable.

Sincerely,



Walter R. Craddock, Esq.  
Administrator

Cc: Honorable Arthur Handy  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government  
and Housing  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel