

No. 71. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and vessels.

(S.127)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Special Plates and Placards for Persons With Disabilities * * *

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304a is amended to read:

§ 304a. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES AND PLACARDS FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

(a) The following definitions shall apply to this section:

* * *

(6) “Eligible person” means:

(A) a person who is blind or has an ambulatory disability and has been issued a special registration plate or a windshield placard by this State or another state;

(B) a person who is transporting a person described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (6); or

(C) a person transporting a person who is blind or has an ambulatory disability on behalf of an organization that has been issued a special registration plate or a windshield placard by this State or another state for the purpose of transporting a person who is blind or has an ambulatory disability.

* * *

(e)(1) A person, other than an eligible person, who for his or her own purposes parks a vehicle in a space for persons with disabilities shall be ~~fin~~

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 1128 is amended to read:

§ 1128. ACCIDENTS—DUTY TO STOP

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle who has caused or is involved in ~~an~~ ~~accident~~ a crash resulting in injury to any person other than the operator, or in damage to any property other than the vehicle then under his or her control, shall immediately stop and render any assistance reasonably necessary.

Subsection 1102(g) of this title (stopping not to impede traffic or jeopardize safety; exceptions) governs the location where a person shall stop. The operator shall give his or her name, residence, license number, and the name of the owner of the motor vehicle to any person who is injured or whose property is damaged and to any enforcement officer. A person who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$2,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both.

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* * * Inspections; Mail Carrier Vehicles * * *

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 1222(e) is added to read:

(e) A vehicle used as a mail carrier under a contract with the U.S. Postal Service shall not fail inspection solely because, in converting the vehicle to be a right-hand drive vehicle, the right air bag in the front compartment has been disconnected or a nonfactory disconnect switch has been installed to disable the air bag.

(A) note that failure to mark appropriately a chain, wire, cable, or similar material strung across a known path of recreational users can result in severe injury or death; and

(B) recommend means and methods to mark appropriately such chains, wires, cables, or similar materials.

(2) Take appropriate steps to cause this resource to be disseminated to owners of property in the State.

(b) Nothing in this section is intended to modify the rights, duties, liabilities, or defenses available to any person under any other law. Neither the existence of, nor the fact that a property owner received or may have received or been aware of, the educational resource required to be developed under this section shall be discoverable or used in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding.

* * * Effective Dates; Retroactivity; Sunset; Applicability * * *

Sec. 31. EFFECTIVE DATES; RETROACTIVITY; SUNSET;

APPLICABILITY

(a)(1) This section and Secs. 9 (licenses and permits to operate; refusals to issue), 15 (signs regarding length of vehicles), 16 (list of approved highways), 23 (motor vehicle purchase and use tax; extension of three-month period to reduce taxable cost), 24 (Vermont Strong license plates), 25–26 (incident clearance), 27 (inspections; mail carrier vehicles), 28–29 (motorboat safety

equipment), and 30 (injury prevention; educational resource) shall take effect on passage.

(2) In Sec. 14, 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(b) (reinstatement under Total Abstinence Program) shall take effect on passage.

(3) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 23 shall apply retroactively to October 26, 2016.

(4) 23 V.S.A. § 1222(e), added in Sec. 27 (inspections; mail carrier vehicles), shall be repealed on July 1, 2020.

(b) In Sec. 14, 23 V.S.A. § 1213(1)(2) (timing of random retests and elimination of GPS requirement) shall take effect 60 days after passage of this act.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

(d) In Sec. 14, 23 V.S.A. § 1213(1)(2) (timing of random retests and elimination of GPS requirement) shall apply to all persons with ignition interlock restricted driver's licenses as of the effective date of this provision and to persons whose underlying DUI offenses occurred prior to the effective date of this act, as well as to persons who obtain ignition interlock RDLs on or after the effective date of this provision.

(e) In Sec. 14, 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(b) (reinstatement under Total Abstinence Program) shall apply to persons whose periods of abstinence began prior to the effective date of this provision, as well as to persons who begin a period of abstinence on or after the effective date of this provision. In addition to