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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driver and Vehicle Services Update

Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Research and Support Operations Section
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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services
website at www.dmv.pa.gov

Tom Wolf, Governor

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary

BULLETIN NO. 19-08

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SPECIAL EDITION

Act 138

Act 138, signed into law on October 24, 2018, has amended multiple sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. The effective date of the following changes is April 22, 2019.

Act 138 has added the following definition to Section 102:

- "Recreational Cargo Trailer" - A trailer designed or adapted for the purposes of transporting animals or vehicles for noncommercial recreational use, such as a horse trailer, watercraft trailer or all-terrain trailer.

Act 138 also amended the definition for a recreational trailer by removing the phrase "and used exclusively for recreational purposes." The term is now defined as follows:

- "Recreational Trailer" - A trailer designed or adapted to provide temporary living quarters for noncommercial recreational, camping or travel use.

Act 138 also amended Section 1920 relating to recreational trailer and recreational cargo trailer annual fee for registration, which becomes effective October 24, 2019.

Act 138 amended Section 4942 relating to registered gross weights. Please note that subsection (c) was amended to exclude the requirement to register in combination, vehicles consisting of a motor vehicle towing a recreational trailer or recreational cargo trailer, **registered as such**, as long as the combination weight does not exceed the sum of the manufacturer's rated axle capacities or the gross combination weight rating, whichever is less. Although the amendment to subsection (c) is effective April 22, 2019, recreational cargo trailers cannot be registered as such until October 24, 2019.

There will be additional information regarding registering recreational cargo trailers and recreational trailers released closer to the October 24th effective date. Therefore, only recreational trailers are affected by the exclusion at this time.

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