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# Driver and Vehicle Services Update

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pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Tom Wolf, Governor

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary

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## SB 796/ACT 138 - RECREATIONAL TRAILER, RECREATIONAL CARGO TRAILER AND DUPLICATE REGISTRATION CARDS

Act 138, signed into law on October 24, 2018, has amended multiple sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

As a reminder, Act 138 previously 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.

The following definition was added 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 amended Section 4942 relating to registered gross weights. Please note that subsection (c) was amended to exclude the requirement to register in combination for 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.

Also, effective October 24, 2019, Act 138 amended the registration fee for recreational trailers and recreational cargo trailers. The new registration fees are as follows:

	One-Year	5 Year Option	Optional Permanent
8,000 or less	\$12	\$60	N/A
8,001 - 13,000	\$35	\$175	N/A
13,001 or more	\$90	N/A	\$425

A new form, form MV-1R, “Recreational Trailer/Recreational Cargo Trailer Application,” is available effective October 24, 2019. This form is completed when a customer is claiming their vehicle as either a recreational trailer or recreational cargo trailer. The application must be used with Form MV-1 or Form MV-4ST.

Act 138 also amended the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Section 1902, relating to exemptions from other fees. This amendment exempts the fee for a duplicate registration card ordered at the time of an online transaction where the applicant prints the registration credential. This amendment does not apply to duplicate registration cards processed by the department, or an agent service of the department, in an over-the-counter transaction or by mail.

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