

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- CONSTRUCTION AND STATE MAINTENANCE OF  
STATE ROADS

Introduced By: Representative Joseph J. Solomon

Date Introduced: May 05, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 24-8 of the General Laws entitled "Construction and Maintenance of  
2 State Roads" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **24-8-46. Street, highway or bridge closure - notice - public hearing.**

4 (a) The department of transportation or local governmental unit with jurisdiction over a  
5 street, highway or bridge shall provide written notice, by certified mail, to all residential property  
6 owners and commercial businesses located within five hundred feet (500') of any proposed closure  
7 to vehicular traffic of a street, highway or bridge, at least thirty (30) days prior to commencing any  
8 work on the street, highway or bridge.

9 (b) The department of transportation or local governmental unit with jurisdiction over a  
10 street, highway or bridge, shall hold a public hearing pursuant to chapter 46 of title 42, a minimum  
11 of fourteen (14) days prior to any temporary or permanent closing to vehicular traffic of a street,  
12 highway or bridge.

13 (c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to any  
14 emergency closure of a street, highway or bridge. For purposes of this section, "emergency closure"  
15 means the closure of a street, highway or bridge to prevent, limit, mitigate or respond to a serious,  
16 unexpected or dangerous situation requiring immediate action to remedy harm or avert imminent  
17 danger to life, health or property.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would require the department of transportation or local governing unit with  
2 jurisdiction over the street, highway or bridge, to notify all residential property owners and  
3 commercial businesses within five hundred feet (500') of any proposed temporary or permanent  
4 closure to vehicular traffic on any street, highway or bridge, at least thirty (30) days prior to  
5 commencing work on the street, highway or bridge. Notice would be required to be sent in writing  
6 by certified mail. This act would further require the department of transportation or local governing  
7 unit with jurisdiction over the street, highway or bridge, to hold a public meeting of the proposed  
8 closure to vehicular traffic at least fourteen (14) days prior to commencing work on the street,  
9 highway or bridge. The notice and hearing provisions would not apply to an emergency closure.  
10           This act would take effect upon passage.

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