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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Felag, Ciccone, Britto, Murray, DiMario, Sosnowski,
Ujifusa, and Euer
Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 24-12 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and
2 Bridge Authority" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **24-12-60. Safety barrier on bridges.**
- 4 (a) The Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority (RITBA) is hereby directed to design
5 a safety barrier and/or safety netting on the Mount Hope Bridge, the Claiborne Pell Bridge, and the
6 Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge (the "bridges"). The process shall be implemented as follows:
- 7 (1) RITBA shall submit the design of the safety barrier and/or safety netting for the bridges
8 to the house finance committee and the senate finance committee on or before January 1, 2026.
- 9 (2) RITBA shall issue a request for proposals for the safety barrier and/or safety netting on
10 or before April 30, 2026.
- 11 (3) Proposals shall be reviewed and accepted by RITBA, and construction and installation
12 of the safety barrier and/or safety netting shall commence on the bridges, no later than August 1,
13 2026.
- 14 (b) Any newly constructed bridges within the state with a deck height of over one hundred
15 feet (100') shall be required to have safety barriers or safety netting.
- 16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

1 This act would direct the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority (RITBA) to design a
2 safety barrier or netting system on the Mount Hope Bridge, the Claiborne Pell Bridge, and the
3 Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge. The act would include several deadlines to ensure construction
4 commences no later than August 1, 2026. Any newly constructed bridges with a deck height of
5 over one hundred feet (100') would be required to have safety barriers or safety netting.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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