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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS
BY CONTRACTORS

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Bennett, and Potter

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 37-13-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-13 entitled "Labor and
2 Payment of Debts by Contractors" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **37-13-1. Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Public works" means any public work [for any municipality, city, town, or any quasi-](#)
6 [municipal public entity, and the State of Rhode Island or any quasi-state public entity,](#) consisting
7 of grading, clearing, demolition, improvement, completion, repair, alteration, or construction of
8 any public road or any bridge, or portion thereof, or any public building, or portion thereof, or any
9 heavy construction, or any public works projects of any nature or kind whatsoever.

10 (2) "School transportation services" means those transportation and related services
11 provided for the transportation of public and private students pursuant to §§ 16-21-1 and 16-21.1-
12 8.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS
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- 1 This act would amend the definition of public works so that it would include any public
- 2 works projects performed for any city or town or quasi-municipal entity and the state and any quasi-
- 3 state entity.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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