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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VEHICLE BARRIERS -- THE CHARLOTTE A. VACCA ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, J. Brien, Place, Azzinaro, and Shanley

Date Introduced: January 21, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 106

VEHICLE BARRIERS

23-106-1. Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Charlotte A. Vacca Act."

23-106-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, lessor, or sublessor of commercial real estate in § 34-49-2, which is utilized, in whole or in part, by a retail establishment.

(2) "Retail establishments" means all sales outlets, stores, shops, or other places of business within the state, which operate primarily to sell or convey food or goods.

(3) "Vehicle barrier" means a safety device that meets, at a minimum, the vehicle impaction standards as adopted and amended by the Rhode Island building code commission, and
installed to protect persons located within or on the property or to protect pedestrians, from
impacts into buildings by motor vehicles.

23-106-3. Installation of vehicle barriers.

(a) Owners, as a part of any new construction of commercial real estate or buildings

1 thereon, shall install vehicle barriers. Owners shall also be encouraged to install vehicle barriers at
2 the locations of all of the owner's other retail establishments to protect persons and pedestrians on
3 the property or within the establishment. Provided, any vehicle barrier shall be installed so that
4 there is sufficient space to ensure wheelchair access and to otherwise be in compliance with the
5 Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and any other applicable state and
6 local law regarding access for persons with disabilities.

7 (b) Provided, the vehicle barriers required under this section shall not be required
8 immediately in front of the entrance to the building if the parking lot lanes or stripe lines in the
9 front lot are parallel to, and not perpendicular to, the front entrance to the building.

10 **23-106-4. Insurance discount.**

11 (a) An insurer shall consider the installation of vehicle barriers as a safety measure and
12 shall provide or offer a discount on the owner's insurance covering damage or loss to the covered
13 commercial real estate or liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of the
14 commercial real estate relative to the reduced risk to the property as a result of installation of the
15 vehicle barrier(s).

16 (b) Any discounts on insurance provided in accordance with this section shall be
17 determined to be actuarially sound and approved by the insurance commissioner prior to their
18 utilization by insurers.

19 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VEHICLE BARRIERS -- THE CHARLOTTE A. VACCA ACT

- 1 This act would require commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at their retail establishment locations as part of any new construction. This act would also require insurers to consider the installation of such vehicle barriers as a safety measure and eligible for a discount on the owner's insurance policy premium as approved by the insurance commissioner.
- 5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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