| 1 | ARTICLE 5 AS AMENDED |
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| 2 | ARTICLE |
| 3 | RELATING TO HIGHWAYS |
| 4 | SECTION 1. Section 24-12-40.F of the General Laws in Chapter 24-12 entitled "Rhode |
| 5 | Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority" is hereby amended to read as follows: |
| 6 | 24-12-40.F. Title to Sakonnet River Bridge vested in Rhode Island turnpike and |
| 7 | bridge authority Institution of tolls All powers, control, and jurisdiction of and title to the |
| 8 | Sakonnet River Bridge is authorized to be transferred to the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge |
| 9 | authority. The Beginning February 1, 2014, the authority may charge and collect tolls for the use |
| 10 | of the Sakonnet River Bridge to provide funds sufficient with any other monies available therefor |
| 11 | for paying the costs of acquiring, leasing, maintaining, repairing and operating, the Jamestown |
| 12 | Verrazzano Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, the Newport Bridge, and the Sakonnet River Bridge, |
| 13 | the turnpike and additional facilities. Until February 1, 2014, the Authority shall not charge and |
| 14 | collect tolls in excess of those in place on the Newport Bridge on June 1, 2013. Should any part |
| 15 | of this section contravene or be inconsistent with any term or provision of the general laws, the |
| 16 | provisions of this section shall control. |
| 17 | SECTION 2. Commission Established - There is hereby established a Special Legislative |
| 18 | Commission to Study the Funding for East Bay Bridges. |
| 19 | (a) That a special legislative commission shall consist of nine (9) members as follows: |
| 20 | Three (3) of whom shall be members of the house, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the |
| 21 | house finance committee, and not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be |
| 22 | appointed by the speaker of the house; Three (3) of whom shall be members of the senate, one of |
| 23 | whom shall be the chairperson of the senate finance committee, and not more than two (2) from |
| 24 | the same political party, to be appointed by the president of the senate; One of whom shall be the |
| 25 | director of transportation, or designee; One of whom shall be the director of the Rhode Island |
| 26 | turnpike and bridge authority, or designee; and One of whom shall be the director of the |
| 27 | department of administration, or designee. The chairpersons of the respective house finance |
| 28 | committee and senate finance committee shall serve as co-chairpersons of this special legislative |
| 29 | commission. |
| 30 | (b) The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of all types |
| 31 | of equitable and reliable funding mechanisms and/or strategies to support the East Bay |

32 Infrastructure (EBI) fund, as set forth in R.I.G.L. section 24-17-3, including, but not limited to,

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- the use of the Sakonnet River Bridge, in order to provide the necessary funding for capital transportation projects, preventative maintenance projects, and for the purposes set forth in
- 3 section 24-12-40.F.
- 4 (c) The commission shall report its findings and results to the General Assembly on or
 5 before January 15, 2014 December 1, 2013.
- 6 (d) The commission shall expire on June 4, 2014.
- 7 SECTION 3. This article shall take effect upon passage.