



1 ~~recommended systemic change to transportation funding by creating the Rhode Island Highway~~  
2 ~~Maintenance Trust Fund, to be funded by an increase in license and registration fees and~~  
3 ~~contributions from the Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) fund, beginning in FY2014.~~

4 ~~(5) Although the State is shifting from long term borrowing to annual revenues to fund~~  
5 ~~transportation infrastructure, there is still a funding gap between the revenue needed to maintain~~  
6 ~~all roads and bridges in good condition and the annual amounts generated by current revenue~~  
7 ~~sources.~~

8 ~~(6) The State has sufficient financial resources to complete the construction of the new~~  
9 ~~Sakonnet River Bridge and to demolish the existing Sakonnet River Bridge, but does not have~~  
10 ~~sufficient financial resources to assure the future maintenance and operation of the Sakonnet~~  
11 ~~River Bridge.~~

12 ~~(7) There is limited access to and from Rhode Island's East Bay, consisting of Bristol and~~  
13 ~~Newport Counties, and this access is restricted both by geography and infrastructure. The most~~  
14 ~~critical infrastructure includes the four bridges that comprise the access to Aquidneck Island and~~  
15 ~~Conanicut Island. These four bridges make up less than half a percent of the total bridges in the~~  
16 ~~state, but comprise approximately twenty percent of the deck area of all Rhode Island bridges.~~

17 ~~(8) Two of the four bridges, the Sakonnet River Bridge and the Jamestown Verrazzano~~  
18 ~~Bridge, are owned and maintained by RIDOT. The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority~~  
19 ~~("RITBA") currently owns and maintains the other two bridges: the Newport Bridge and the~~  
20 ~~Mount Hope Bridge.~~

21 ~~(9) In the current economic and political climate, cooperation between State departments~~  
22 ~~and/or quasi public agencies provides the best opportunity to maximize financial and knowledge-~~  
23 ~~based resources.~~

24 ~~(10) RITBA currently assesses a toll for passage over the Newport Bridge, and this toll~~  
25 ~~serves as the sole source of revenue for RITBA to maintain both the Newport Bridge and the~~  
26 ~~Mount Hope Bridge and related appurtenances.~~

27 ~~(11) The Federal Highway Administration allows for the placement of tolls on certain~~  
28 ~~transportation infrastructure in order to assure the improvement and proper operation and~~  
29 ~~maintenance of the structure and associated roadways.~~

30 ~~(12) The current toll structure places undue burden on the residents, businesses, and~~  
31 ~~visitors who must use the Newport Bridge to access work, schools, shopping, and other essential~~  
32 ~~services. It is crucial to establish a comprehensive strategy to fund and maintain the bridges~~  
33 ~~connecting the East Bay.~~

34 ~~(13) The transfer of the Sakonnet River Bridge and its appurtenances and the Jamestown~~

1 ~~Verrazzano Bridge and its appurtenances to the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority~~  
2 ~~would be in the best interests of the State of Rhode Island and its residents, particularly those~~  
3 ~~living and working in the East Bay.~~

4 ~~(14) The placement of a toll on the Sakonnet River Bridge, under the direction of~~  
5 ~~RITBA, would serve to create a more viable means of funding future maintenance and repairs of~~  
6 ~~the East Bay bridges and would allow for the establishment of a more equitable toll structure,~~  
7 ~~along with a fund for capital transportation projects and preventive maintenance in the East Bay.~~

8 ~~**24-17-3. East Bay Infrastructure fund established.**~~ (a) ~~There is hereby created a~~  
9 ~~special account in the general fund to be known as the East Bay Infrastructure (EBI) fund.~~

10 ~~(b) The fund shall consist of all those moneys which the Rhode Island Turnpike and~~  
11 ~~Bridge Authority may and the state may, from time to time, direct to the fund, including, but not~~  
12 ~~necessarily limited to, funds in excess of those required to (i) pay debt service payments, (ii)~~  
13 ~~operate and maintain the bridges; and (iii) maintain required or adequate reserves.~~

14 ~~(c) All funds collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the EBI fund and~~  
15 ~~shall be used only in Bristol and Newport Counties, and only for the purposes set forth in this~~  
16 ~~chapter.~~

17 ~~(d) Unexpended balances and any earnings thereon shall not revert to the general fund~~  
18 ~~but shall remain in the EBI fund. There shall be no requirement that moneys received into the EBI~~  
19 ~~fund during any given calendar year or fiscal year be expended during the same calendar year or~~  
20 ~~fiscal year.~~

21 ~~(e) The EBI fund shall be administered by the director, who shall allocate and spend~~  
22 ~~moneys from the fund only in accordance with the purposes and procedures set forth in this~~  
23 ~~chapter.~~

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

26 ~~**24-8-28.1. Sakonnet River stone bridge.**~~ The department of transportation shall have  
27 full charge and control of the operation and maintenance of the Rhode Island stone bridge across  
28 Sakonnet River connecting the island of Rhode Island with the mainland, and the bridge is hereby  
29 made a part of the state highway system. The department shall appoint the attendants and other  
30 employees as may be required for the care and operation of the bridge, and in all matters of the  
31 care, operation, and maintenance of the bridge the department shall exercise full authority. All  
32 appropriations for the care, maintenance, and repair of the bridge shall be expended under the  
33 direction of the department.

34 SECTION 3. Sections 24-12-1, 24-12-5, 24-12-9, and 24-12-26 of the General Laws in

1 Chapter 24-12 entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority" are hereby amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 **24-12-1. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have  
4 the following meanings, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning:

5 (1) "Additional facility" means any bridge, approach or feeder road, highway, road,  
6 freeway, tunnel, overpass, underpass, parking facility or toll facility, in the state, equipment or  
7 signal and information system, which the authority is authorized by this chapter or any other law  
8 to construct, reconstruct, renovate, acquire, maintain, repair, operate, or manage after May 3,  
9 1954 or any portion thereof.

10 (2) "Annual period" means the one-year fiscal period of the state commencing on the  
11 first day of July of any year and ending the last day of June of the following year.

12 (3) "Authority" means the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority created by section  
13 24-12-2, or, if the authority shall be abolished, the board, body, or commission succeeding to the  
14 principal functions thereof or upon whom the powers given by the chapter to the authority shall  
15 be given by law.

16 (4) (i) "Cost" as applied to any project to be constructed, reconstructed, renovated,  
17 maintained, acquired, leased, repaired, operated or managed by the authority shall embrace the  
18 cost of construction, reconstruction, renovation, maintenance, repair, operation or management,  
19 the cost of the acquisition of all land, rights-of-way, property, rights, easements, and interests  
20 acquired by the authority for the construction, reconstruction, renovation, maintenance, repair,  
21 operation or management, the cost of demolishing or removing any buildings or structures on  
22 land so acquired, including the cost of acquiring any lands to which the buildings or structures  
23 may be moved, the cost of all machinery and equipment, financing charges, interest prior to and  
24 during construction, reconstruction, renovation, maintenance, repair, operation or management,  
25 and for one year after completion of construction, reconstruction, renovation, maintenance, repair,  
26 operation or management, cost of traffic estimates and of engineering and legal services, plans,  
27 specifications, surveys, estimates of cost and of revenues, other expenses necessary or incident to  
28 determining the feasibility or practicability of construction, reconstruction, renovation,  
29 maintenance, repair, operation or management, administrative expenses, and such other expenses  
30 as may be necessary or incident to the construction, reconstruction, renovation, maintenance,  
31 repair, operation or management, the financing of the construction, and the placing of the project  
32 in operation, and in connection with the Newport Bridge shall include the purchase price of the  
33 ferry franchise. The word "cost" as applied to any project which the authority may be authorized  
34 to acquire means the amount of the purchase price, lease payments, debt service payments, or the

1 amount of any condemnation award in connection with the acquisition of the project, and shall  
2 include the cost of acquiring all the capital stock of the corporation owning the project, if such be  
3 the case, and the amount to be paid to discharge all of the obligations of the corporation in order  
4 to vest title to the project in the authority, the cost of improvements to the project which may be  
5 determined by the authority to be necessary prior to the financing thereof, interest during the  
6 period of construction of the improvements and for one year thereafter, the cost of all lands,  
7 properties, rights, easements, franchises, and permits acquired, the cost of engineering and legal  
8 services, plans, specifications, surveys, estimates of cost and of revenues, other expenses  
9 necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of the acquisition or  
10 improvement, administrative expenses, and such other expenses as may be necessary or incident  
11 to the financing of the acquisition or improvement and the placing of the project in operation by  
12 the authority.

13 (ii) "Cost" as applied to the Mount Hope Bridge means such amount, if any, as the  
14 authority may deem necessary, following the acquisition of a bridge under the provisions of  
15 section 24-12-40A, to place the bridge in safe and efficient condition for its operation. And as  
16 applied to any project constructed or acquired by the authority under the provisions of the  
17 chapter, the word "cost" shall also include such amounts as the authority may deem necessary for  
18 working capital and to create a debt service reserve.

19 ~~(iii) "Cost" as applied to the Sakonnet River Bridge includes such amount, if any, as the~~  
20 ~~authority may deem necessary, following the acquisition of the Sakonnet River Bridge under the~~  
21 ~~provisions of subsection 24-12-40F, to place the bridge in safe and efficient condition for its~~  
22 ~~operation. As applied to any project constructed or acquired by the authority under the provisions~~  
23 ~~of the chapter, the word "cost" shall also include such amounts as the authority may deem~~  
24 ~~necessary for capitalized interest, working capital and to create a debt service reserve.~~

25 ~~(iv) "Cost" as applied to the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge includes such amount, if any,~~  
26 ~~as the authority may deem necessary, following the acquisition of the Jamestown Verrazzano~~  
27 ~~Bridge under the provisions of subsection 24-12-40G, to place the bridge in safe and efficient~~  
28 ~~condition for its operation. As applied to any project constructed or acquired by the authority~~  
29 ~~under the provisions of the chapter, the word "cost" shall also include such amounts as the~~  
30 ~~authority may deem necessary for capitalized interest, working capital and to create a debt service~~  
31 ~~reserve.~~

32 (5) "Department" means the department of transportation, or, if the department shall be  
33 abolished, the board, body, or commission succeeding to the principal functions thereof or upon  
34 whom the powers given by chapter 5 of title 37 to the department shall be given by law.

1           (6) "Ferry franchise" means the existing franchises and rights to operate ferries  
2 belonging to the Jamestown and Newport ferry company, but not including any other intangible  
3 personal property or real estate or tangible personal property of the corporation which shall  
4 remain the property of the corporation.

5           (7) "Jamestown Bridge" means the former bridge over the west passage of Narragansett  
6 Bay between the towns of Jamestown and North Kingstown constructed by the Jamestown Bridge  
7 commission under the provisions of chapter 2536 of the Public Laws, 1937 and the approaches  
8 thereto, and shall embrace all tollhouses, administration, and other buildings and structures used  
9 in connection therewith, together with all property, rights, easements, and interests acquired by  
10 the Jamestown Bridge commission in connection with the construction and operation of the  
11 bridge.

12           (8) "Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge" means the bridge constructed in replacement of the  
13 Jamestown Bridge, as defined in subdivision (7) and the approaches thereto, and shall embrace all  
14 tollhouses, administration, and other buildings and structures used in connection therewith,  
15 ~~together with all property, rights, easements, and interests acquired by the authority in connection~~  
16 ~~with the construction and operation of such bridge.~~

17           (9) "Mount Hope Bridge" means the existing bridge between the towns of Bristol and  
18 Portsmouth and the approaches thereto, which was constructed by the Mount Hope Bridge  
19 corporation and which was acquired and is now owned and operated by the Mount Hope Bridge  
20 authority under the provisions of chapter 13 of this title, and shall embrace all tollhouses,  
21 administration, and other buildings and structures used in connection therewith, together with all  
22 property, rights, easements, and interests acquired by the Mount Hope Bridge corporation or the  
23 Mount Hope Bridge authority in connection with the construction and operation of the bridge.

24           (10) "Newport Bridge" means the bridge or tunnel or combination of bridge and tunnel  
25 constructed or to be constructed under the provisions of this chapter over or under the waters of  
26 Narragansett Bay between Conanicut Island and Aquidneck Island, shall embrace the substructure  
27 and the superstructure thereof and the approaches thereto and the entrance plazas, interchanges,  
28 overpasses, underpasses, tollhouses, administration, storage, and other buildings, and highways  
29 connecting the bridge or tunnel with the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge (defined in subdivision  
30 (8)) and with state highways as the authority may determine to construct from time to time in  
31 connection therewith, together with all property, rights, easements, and interests acquired by the  
32 authority for the construction and operation of the bridge or tunnel or combination of bridge and  
33 tunnel.

34           (11) "Owner" means and include all individuals, incorporated companies, partnerships,

1 societies, or associations, and also municipalities, political subdivisions, and all public agencies  
2 and instrumentalities, having any title or interest in any property, rights, easements, or franchises  
3 authorized to be acquired under the provisions of this chapter.

4 (12) "Project" means the "Newport Bridge," "Mount Hope Bridge," ~~"Sakonnet River~~  
5 ~~Bridge," "Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge"~~, the "turnpike" or any "additional facility," as the case  
6 may be, or any portion thereof which may be financed, acquired or leased under the provisions of  
7 this chapter.

8 (13) "Turnpike" means the controlled access highway or any portion thereof to be  
9 constructed or acquired, from time to time, under the provisions of this chapter from a point at or  
10 near the Connecticut-Rhode Island border through the county of Washington and the county of  
11 Newport to a point at or near the Massachusetts-Rhode Island border in the town of Tiverton  
12 (excluding the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, the Newport Bridge, and  
13 the Sakonnet River Bridge), together with all bridges (except those mentioned above),  
14 overpasses, underpasses, interchanges, entrance plazas, approaches, approach roads, tollhouses,  
15 service stations, and administration, storage, and other buildings and facilities which the authority  
16 may deem necessary for the operation of the turnpike, together with all property, rights,  
17 easements, and interests which may be acquired by the authority for the construction or the  
18 operation of the turnpike.

19 (14) "Sakonnet River Bridge" means the replacement Sakonnet River bridge constructed  
20 or to be constructed under the provisions of Article 36 of Chapter 376 of the Public Laws of 2003  
21 between the towns of Tiverton and Portsmouth and shall embrace the substructure and the  
22 superstructure thereof and the approaches thereto and the toll structures, interchanges, overpasses,  
23 underpasses, tollhouses, administration, storage, and other buildings, and highways connecting  
24 the bridge with state highways, as the authority may determine to construct or acquire from time  
25 to time in connection therewith, together with all property, rights, easements, and interests  
26 acquired ~~by the authority~~ for the construction and operation of the bridge.

27 **24-12-5. Power to construct, reconstruct, renovate, acquire, maintain, repair,**  
28 **operate or manage projects or additional facilities and to issue bonds. --** In order to facilitate  
29 vehicular traffic, remove many of the present handicaps and hazards on the congested highways  
30 in the state, alleviate the barriers caused by large bodies of water, and promote the agricultural  
31 and industrial development of the state, the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority is hereby  
32 authorized and empowered: to construct the Newport Bridge, the turnpike, any portion thereof or  
33 any additional facility hereafter authorized to be constructed; to acquire the Mount Hope Bridge,  
34 to acquire the Sakonnet River Bridge, ~~to acquire the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge~~ and any

1 additional facility hereafter authorized to be acquired ([except the Sakonnet River Bridge](#)); to  
2 maintain, construct, reconstruct, renovate, acquire, repair, operate or manage any project or  
3 projects; and to issue bonds of the authority as provided in this chapter to finance any project or  
4 projects; provided, however, that the Mount Hope Bridge shall only be acquired as provided for  
5 by section 24-12-40A.

6 **24-12-9. Powers of authority.** -- (a) The authority is hereby authorized and empowered:

7 (1) To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

8 (2) To adopt an official seal and alter it at pleasure;

9 (3) To maintain an office at such place or places within the state as it may designate;

10 (4) To sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded; provided, however, that  
11 any and all actions at law or in equity against the authority shall be brought only in the county in  
12 which the principal office of the authority shall be located;

13 (5) To determine, subject to the approval of the director of transportation, the location  
14 and the design standards of the Newport Bridge, the turnpike and any additional new facility to be  
15 constructed;

16 (6) To issue bonds of the authority for any of its purposes and to refund its bonds, all as  
17 provided in this chapter;

18 (7) To combine for financing purposes the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, ~~the~~  
19 ~~Sakonnet River Bridge, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge,~~ the turnpike and any additional  
20 facility or facilities, or any two (2) or more of such projects;

21 (8) To borrow money in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for any of its purposes and  
22 to issue notes, certificates, or other evidences of borrowing in form as may be authorized by  
23 resolution of the authority, the notes, certificates, or other evidence of borrowing to be payable in  
24 the first instance from the proceeds of any bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter and  
25 to contain on their face a statement to the effect that neither the state, the authority nor any  
26 municipality or other political subdivision of the state shall be obligated to pay the same or the  
27 interest thereon except from the proceeds of bonds in anticipation of the issuance of which the  
28 notes, certificates, or other evidences of borrowing shall have been issued, or from revenues;

29 (9) To fix and revise from time to time, subject to the provisions of this chapter, and to  
30 charge and collect tolls for transit over the turnpike and the several parts or sections thereof, and  
31 for the use of the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, ~~the Sakonnet River Bridge, the~~  
32 ~~Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge~~ and any additional facility acquired, financed or leased under the  
33 provisions of this chapter;

34 (10) To acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property in the exercise of its



1 powers and the performance of its duties;

2 (11) To acquire in the name of the authority by purchase or otherwise, on such terms and  
3 conditions and in such manner as it may deem proper, or by the exercise of the rights of  
4 condemnation in the manner as provided by this chapter, public or private lands, including public  
5 parks, playgrounds, or reservations, or parts thereof or rights therein, rights-of-way, property,  
6 rights, easements and interests as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of this  
7 chapter; provided, however, that all public property damaged in carrying out the powers granted  
8 by this chapter shall be restored or repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as  
9 practicable;

10 (12) To designate the locations, with the approval of the director of transportation, and  
11 establish, limit and control the points of ingress to and egress from the turnpike and any  
12 additional facility as may be necessary or desirable in the judgment of the authority to insure the  
13 proper operation and maintenance thereof, and to prohibit entrance to and exit from any point or  
14 points not so designated;

15 (13) To employ, in its discretion, consulting engineers, attorneys, accountants,  
16 construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers, and such other employees and  
17 agents as may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their compensation;

18 (14) To apply for, receive and accept from any federal agency aid and/or grants for or in  
19 aid of the repair, maintenance and/or construction of the turnpike, the Newport Bridge, ~~the~~  
20 ~~Sakonnet River Bridge~~, the Mount Hope Bridge, ~~the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge~~ or any  
21 additional facility, and to receive and accept from the state, from any municipality, or other  
22 political subdivision thereof and from any other source aid or contributions of either money,  
23 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied only for the purposes for  
24 which the grants and contributions may be made;

25 (15) To construct grade separations at intersections of the turnpike, the approaches and  
26 highway connections of the Newport Bridge, ~~the Sakonnet River Bridge~~, the Mount Hope Bridge,  
27 ~~the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge~~ and any additional facility with public highways, streets, or  
28 other public ways or places, and to change and adjust the lines and grades thereof so as to  
29 accommodate the same to the design of the grade separation; the cost of the grade separations and  
30 any damage incurred in changing and adjusting the lines and grades of the highways, streets,  
31 ways, and places shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project;

32 (16) To vacate or change the location of any portion of any public highway, street, or  
33 other public way or place, sewer, pipe, main, conduit, cable, wire, tower, pole, and other  
34 equipment and appliance of the state or of any municipality or other political subdivision of the

1 state and to reconstruct the same at such new location as the authority shall deem most favorable  
2 for the project and of substantially the same type and in as good condition as the original  
3 highway, street, way, place, sewer, pipe, main, conduit, cable, wire, tower, pole, equipment, or  
4 appliance, and the cost of the reconstruction and any damage incurred in vacating or changing the  
5 location thereof shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project;  
6 any public highway, street or other public way or place vacated or relocated by the authority shall  
7 be vacated or relocated in the manner provided by law for the vacation or relocation of public  
8 roads, and any damages awarded on account thereof shall be paid by the authority as a part of the  
9 cost of the project;

10 (17) The authority shall also have the power to make reasonable regulations, subject to  
11 the approval of the public utility administrator, for the installation, construction, maintenance,  
12 repair, renewal, relocation and removal of tracks, pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, towers,  
13 poles, and other equipment and appliances (herein called "public utility facilities") of any public  
14 utility as defined in section 39-1-2, in, on, along, over or under any project. Whenever the  
15 authority shall determine that it is necessary that any public facilities which now are, or hereafter  
16 may be, located in, on, along, over, or under any project should be relocated in the project, or  
17 should be removed from the project, the public utility owning or operating the facilities shall  
18 relocate or remove the facilities in accordance with the order of the authority; provided, however,  
19 that the cost and expenses of the relocation or removal, including the cost of installing the  
20 facilities in a new location, or new locations, and the cost of any lands, or any rights or interests  
21 in lands, and any other rights acquired to accomplish the relocation or removal, less the cost of  
22 any lands or any rights or interests in lands of any other rights of the public utility paid to the  
23 public utility in connection with the relocation or removal of the property, shall be ascertained  
24 and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project. In case of any relocation or removal  
25 of facilities the public utility owning or operating the facilities, its successors or assigns, may  
26 maintain and operate the facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new  
27 locations, for as long a period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to  
28 maintain and operate the facilities in their former location or locations;

29 (18) To make reasonable regulations and to grant easements for the installation,  
30 construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, relocation, and removal of pipelines, other equipment,  
31 and appliances of any corporation or person owning or operating pipelines in, on, along, over, or  
32 under the turnpike, whenever the authority shall determine that it is necessary that any facilities  
33 which now are, or hereafter may be located in, on, along, over or under the turnpike should be  
34 relocated in the turnpike, or should be removed from the turnpike, the corporation or person

1 owning or operating the facilities shall relocate or remove the facilities in accordance with the  
2 order of the authority; provided, however, that the cost and expense of the relocation or removal,  
3 including the cost of installing the facilities in a new location, or new locations, and the cost of  
4 any lands, or any rights or interests in lands, and any other rights acquired to accomplish the  
5 relocation or removal, less the cost of any lands or any rights or interests in lands or any other  
6 rights of any corporation or person paid to any corporation or person in connection with the  
7 relocation or removal of the property, shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of  
8 the cost of the project. In case of any relocation or removal of facilities the corporation or person  
9 owning or operating the facilities, its successors or assigns, may maintain and operate the  
10 facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new locations, for as long a  
11 period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to maintain and operate the  
12 facilities in their former location or locations;

13 (19) To enter upon any lands, waters, and premises for the purpose of making such  
14 surveys, soundings, borings, and examinations as the authority may deem necessary or  
15 convenient for its purposes, and the entry shall not be deemed a trespass, nor shall an entry for  
16 such purposes be deemed an entry under any condemnation proceedings; provided, however, the  
17 authority shall pay any actual damage resulting to the lands, water, and premises as a result of the  
18 entry and activities as a part of the cost of the project;

19 (20) To enter into contracts or agreements with any board, commission, public  
20 instrumentality of another state or the federal government or with any political subdivision of  
21 another state relating to the connection or connections to be established between the turnpike or  
22 any additional facility with any public highway or turnpike now in existence or hereafter to be  
23 constructed in another state, and with respect to the construction, maintenance and operation of  
24 interstate turnpikes or expressways;

25 (21) To enter into contracts with the department of transportation with respect to the  
26 construction, reconstruction, renovation, acquisition, maintenance, repair, operation or  
27 management of any project and with the Rhode Island state police with respect to the policing of  
28 any project;

29 (22) To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the  
30 performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this chapter; and

31 (23) To do all other acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers  
32 expressly granted in this chapter.

33 (24) To grant and/or contract through the transfer of funds of the authority to the  
34 department of transportation for the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, maintenance, repair,

1 operation or management by the department of transportation of any project or projects  
2 authorized by this chapter, and the department of transportation is authorized to accept any such  
3 grant or transfer of funds.

4 (b) Provided, the authority in carrying out the provisions of this section shall hold public  
5 hearings in the city or town where a proposed project will be located prior to the finalization of  
6 any specifications or the awarding of any contracts for any project.

7 **24-12-26. Power to collect tolls and charges -- Gasoline and service concessions. --** (a)

8 The authority is hereby authorized, subject to the provisions of this chapter, to fix, revise, charge  
9 and collect tolls for the use of the Newport Bridge, ~~the Mount Hope Bridge, the Sakonnet River~~  
10 ~~Bridge (subject to federal regulations and approvals)~~, the turnpike and the different parts or  
11 sections thereof, and for the use of any additional facility and the different parts or sections  
12 thereof, and to contract with any person, partnership, association or corporation for placing on  
13 any project telephone, telegraph, electric light or power lines, gas stations, garages, and  
14 restaurants if deemed necessary by the authority in connection with the project, or for the use of  
15 any project or part thereof, including the right-of-way adjoining the paved portion of the turnpike  
16 or of any additional facility or for any other purposes and to fix the terms, conditions, rents and  
17 rates of charges for such use; provided, that the authority shall construct any gasoline service  
18 facilities which it may determine are needed on the project, and provided, further, that, to afford  
19 users of the project a reasonable choice of motor fuels of different brands, each gasoline service  
20 station shall be separately offered for lease upon sealed bids and, after notice of the offer has been  
21 published once a week in three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation  
22 in the state, and, in the event an acceptable bid shall be received in the judgment of the authority,  
23 each lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder therefor, but no person shall be  
24 awarded or have the use of, nor shall motor fuel identified by the trade-marks, trade names, or  
25 brands of any one supplier, distributor, or retailer of such fuel be sold at more than one service  
26 station if they would constitute more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the service stations on the  
27 project. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members of the town of Jamestown police  
28 and fire department and ambulance service personnel of the town of Jamestown and Jamestown  
29 school department who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay a toll for use of the  
30 Newport Bridge, shall, upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to the town of  
31 Jamestown, be reimbursed for all charges on an annual basis by the town of Jamestown who in  
32 turn shall be reimbursed for all payments made by the state. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
33 this section, members of the city of Newport police and fire department and rescue personnel  
34 who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay a toll for use of the Newport Bridge, shall,

1 upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to the city of Newport, be reimbursed  
2 for all charges on an annual basis by the city of Newport who in turn shall be reimbursed for all  
3 payments made by the state.

4 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members of the police and fire  
5 department and rescue personnel of any city or town in this state who, in the course of their duty,  
6 are required to pay a toll for use of the Mount Hope Bridge ~~or the Sakonnet River Bridge~~, shall,  
7 upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to their town or city, be reimbursed  
8 for all such charges on an annual basis by the town or city, who in turn shall be reimbursed for all  
9 payments made by the state.

10 SECTION 4. Sections 24-12-40.F and 24-12-40.G of the General Laws in Chapter 24-12  
11 entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority" are hereby repealed.

12 ~~**24-12-40.F. Title to Sakonnet River Bridge vested in Rhode Island turnpike and**~~  
13 ~~**bridge authority -- Institution of tolls. --**~~ All powers, control, and jurisdiction of and title to the  
14 ~~Sakonnet River Bridge is authorized to be transferred to the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge~~  
15 ~~authority. The authority may charge and collect tolls for the use of the Sakonnet River Bridge to~~  
16 ~~provide funds sufficient with any other monies available therefor for paying the costs of~~  
17 ~~acquiring, leasing, maintaining, repairing and operating, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, the~~  
18 ~~Mount Hope Bridge, the Newport Bridge, and the Sakonnet River Bridge, the turnpike and~~  
19 ~~additional facilities.~~

20 ~~**24-12-40.G. Title to Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge vested in Rhode Island turnpike**~~  
21 ~~**and bridge authority. --**~~ All powers, control, and jurisdiction of and title to the Jamestown  
22 ~~Verrazzano Bridge is authorized to be transferred to the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge~~  
23 ~~authority.~~

24 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

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1           This act would repeal the transfer of authority for the Sakonnet River Bridge and the  
2 Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge from the department of transportation to the bridge and turnpike  
3 authority.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC00026  
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