

2018 -- H 7104

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LC003040
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Tanzi, Ruggiero, and Phillips

Date Introduced: January 11, 2018

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-13 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Transportation"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-13-2.1. Duties of the department - Rhode Works project.**

4 (a) It shall be the responsibility of the department to identify the businesses affected and
5 the specific impact of Rhode Works projects on small businesses and to deliver and communicate
6 this information to the department of commerce. The department shall identify the traffic flow to
7 Rhode Island small business commercial areas as it relates to road and bridge closings due to
8 Rhode Works projects, and the realignment of the Newport Bridge ramps, identify road and
9 bridge closings, parking restrictions and alterations in traffic patterns to accommodate road and
10 bridge repairs, including proposed dates of work, road closures and re-routing of any traffic and
11 parking patterns.

12 (b) During construction season (April through October), the department shall share the
13 information collected in subsection (a) of this section with the commerce corporation to allow at
14 least two (2) months for the commerce corporation to assist small businesses affected by Rhode
15 Works projects in the affected communities and neighborhoods as set forth in subsection

16 (c) of this section. During emergencies, the department will contact the commerce corporation in
17 order to coordinate a plan of action in the affected area. The department will meet with the
18 commerce corporation on a regular basis in order to review upcoming projects and coordinate a

1 plan of action for the affected businesses.

2 (c) The commerce corporation shall provide those affected businesses in the construction
3 areas with a list of available resources, programs and/or services that if utilized might minimize
4 the economic and financial impact upon those businesses during road and bridge construction,
5 including, but not limited to, contact by the commerce corporation to affected businesses and if
6 desired, meeting with affected businesses during construction.

7 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
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1 This act would require the department of transportation to identify the impact of Rhode
2 Works projects, and the realignment of the Newport Bridge ramps on Rhode Island small
3 business commercial areas, particularly during construction season (April through October) and
4 provide the commerce corporation with that information to allow the commerce corporation
5 sufficient time to provide the affected businesses with information on available resources,
6 programs and services that if utilized might minimize the economic and financial impact.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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