

2025 -- H 5946

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Corvese, Casimiro, Finkelman, Read, Messier,  
O'Brien, Solomon, Potter, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 23-27.3 of the General Laws entitled "State Building Code" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **23-27.3-703. Construction fencing safeguards.**

4           (a) In addition to any standard, practice or procedure relating to safeguards to be used in  
5 and around construction sites promulgated by this code, it shall be a violation of this section for  
6 any owner, operator or manager of a construction project on a construction site whether on public  
7 or private property, to be secured by a locked chain, gate, fence or other barrier designed to obstruct  
8 access in or out of the construction site by vehicle or person on foot. At all times while construction  
9 is taking place on worksite, an access point shall remain open so that employees working on the  
10 site have the ability to freely enter and exit.

11           (b) Violations of this section shall, for a first offense, be punishable by a written warning  
12 to the operators of the construction site with an order to open or unlock whatever barrier is in place;  
13 subsequent violations of this section shall result in an immediate stoppage of work on the site until  
14 a hearing is scheduled with the director of the department of labor and training and a one thousand  
15 dollar (\$1,000) fine for each day the construction site was found to have been locked without an  
16 open access point for workers to freely enter and exit.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would prohibit the restriction of access in and out of a construction site by using
- 2   locked gates or fences while work is ongoing.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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