

2025 -- S 0591 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002126/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Felag, DiPalma, Lauria, Raptakis, Tikoian, and Euer

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 WHEREAS, Throughout the centuries, dedications and memorials have served as tributes
2 to prominent heroes who have woven the rich fabric or an area or people’s history; and

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts is just such a laudable and heroic individual;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts, a resident of Newport, Rhode Island and
6 subsequently Tiverton, Rhode Island, and a member of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 103D Field
7 Artillery Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, made the ultimate sacrifice while engaging
8 enemy forces in combat operations near Taji, Iraq.

9 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts’ heroic actions resulted in his award of the
10 Bronze Star Medal, with Combat “V” and the Purple Heart; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island, as well as the majority of states across the country,
12 uphold the tradition of naming structures such as roads, bridges and edifices after renowned and
13 heroic individuals and there is overwhelming support for renaming the Sakonnet River Bridge the
14 “Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts Sakonnet River Bridge.”

15 SECTION 1. Chapter 22-7.4 of the General Laws entitled "Permanent Joint Committee on
16 Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions" is hereby amended
17 by adding thereto the following section:

18 **22-7.4-157. Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts Sakonnet River Bridge.**

1 Rhode Island Bridge No. 250, which carries Route 24 over the Sakonnet River between the
2 towns of Portsmouth and Tiverton, previously known as the new Sakonnet River Bridge, shall
3 hereafter be named and known as the “Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts Sakonnet River Bridge.”

4 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 RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK
ISLAND

- 1 This act would name the new Sakonnet River Bridge as the “Staff Sergeant Christopher
2 Potts Sakonnet River Bridge.”
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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