

**2025 -- S 0722 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC001637/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE**

Introduced By: Senators Thompson, Tikoian, Quezada, McKenney, Ciccone,  
Appollonio, Murray, and Bissaillon  
Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

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, during work hours it shall be a violation  
6 of this section for any owner, operator or manager of a construction project on a construction site  
7 whether on public or private property, to cause, permit or authorize the site to be secured by a  
8 locked chain, gate, fence or other barrier designed to obstruct access in or out of the construction  
9 site by vehicle or person on foot. At all times while construction is taking place on worksite, an  
10 access point shall remain open so that employees working on the site have the ability to freely enter  
11 and exit.

12           (b) Violations of this section shall, for a first offense, be punishable by a written warning  
13 to the operators of the construction site with an order to open or unlock whatever barrier is in place;  
14 subsequent violations of this section shall result in an immediate stoppage of work on the site until  
15 a hearing is scheduled with the director of the department of labor and training and a one thousand  
16 dollar (\$1,000) fine for each day the construction site was found to have been locked without an  
17 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  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

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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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