

2026 -- H 8148

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Representatives Solomon, and Casey

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 24-12 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and  
2 Bridge Authority" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **24-12-60. Safety barrier on bridges.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority (RITBA) is hereby directed to design  
5 a safety barrier and/or safety netting on the Mount Hope Bridge, the Claiborne Pell Bridge, the  
6 Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts Sakonnet River Bridge, and the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge  
7 (the "bridges"). The process shall be implemented as follows:

8 (1) RITBA shall submit the design of the safety barrier and/or safety netting for the bridges  
9 to the house finance committee and the senate finance committee on or before January 1, 2027.

10 (2) RITBA shall issue a request for proposals for the safety barrier and/or safety netting on  
11 or before April 30, 2027.

12 (3) Proposals shall be reviewed and accepted by RITBA, and construction and installation  
13 of the safety barrier and/or safety netting shall commence on the bridges, no later than August 1,  
14 2027.

15 (b) Any newly constructed bridges within the state with a deck height of over one hundred  
16 feet (100') shall be required to have safety barriers or safety netting.

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 HIGHWAYS -- RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

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1           This act would direct the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority (RITBA) to design a  
2 safety barrier or netting system on the Mount Hope Bridge, the Claiborne Pell Bridge, the Staff  
3 Sergeant Christopher Potts Sakonnet River Bridge, and the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge. The act  
4 would include several deadlines to ensure construction commences no later than August 1, 2027.  
5 Any newly constructed bridges with a deck height of over one hundred feet (100') would be  
6 required to have safety barriers or safety netting.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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