

2025 -- S 0014

LC000425

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VEHICLE BARRIERS -- THE CHARLOTTE A.
VACCA ACT

Introduced By: Senators Tikoian, Felag, Ciccone, Burke, Britto, McKenney,
LaMountain, Gallo, Murray, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 23, 2025

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 104

4 VEHICLE BARRIERS

5 **23-104-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Charlotte A. Vacca Act."

7 **23-104-2. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

9 (1) "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, lessor, or sublessor of commercial real estate
10 defined in § 34-49-2, which is utilized, in whole or in part, by a retail establishment.

11 (2) "Retail establishments" means all sales outlets, stores, shops, or other places of business
12 located within the state, which operate primarily to sell or convey food or goods.

13 (3) "Vehicle barrier" means a safety device that meets, at a minimum, the vehicle impact
14 protection standards as adopted and amended by the Rhode Island building code commission, and
15 that is installed to protect persons located within or on the property or to protect pedestrians, from
16 collisions into buildings by motor vehicles.

17 **23-104-3. Installation of vehicle barriers.**

18 Owners, as a part of any new construction of commercial real estate or buildings thereon,

1 shall install vehicle barriers. Owners shall also be encouraged to install vehicle barriers at the
2 locations of all of the owner's other retail establishments to protect persons and pedestrians on the
3 property or within the establishment.

4 **23-104-4. Insurance discount.**

5 (a) An insurer shall consider the installation of vehicle barriers as a safety measure and
6 shall provide or offer a discount on the owner's insurance covering damage or loss to the covered
7 commercial real estate or liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of the
8 commercial real estate relative to the reduced risk to the property as a result of installation of the
9 vehicle barrier(s).

10 (b) Any discounts on insurance provided in accordance with this section shall be
11 determined to be actuarially sound and approved by the insurance commissioner prior to their
12 utilization by insurers.

13 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 -- VEHICLE BARRIERS -- THE CHARLOTTE A.
VACCA ACT

1 This act would require commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at their retail
2 establishment locations as part of any new construction. This act would also require insurers to
3 consider the installation of such vehicle barriers as a safety measure and eligible for a discount on
4 the owner's insurance policy premium as approved by the insurance commissioner.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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