

2012 -- H 7809

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LC01990
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS - INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Morrison, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 24-12-26 and 24-12-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 24-12
2 entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority" are hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **24-12-26. Power to collect tolls and charges -- Gasoline and service concessions. --** (a)
4 The authority is hereby authorized, subject to the provisions of this chapter, to fix, revise, charge
5 and collect tolls for the use of the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, the turnpike and the
6 different parts or sections thereof, and for the use of any additional facility and the different parts
7 or sections thereof, and to contract with any person, partnership, association or corporation for
8 placing on any project telephone, telegraph, electric light or power lines, gas stations, garages,
9 and restaurants if deemed necessary by the authority in connection with the project, or for the use
10 of any project or part thereof, including the right-of-way adjoining the paved portion of the
11 turnpike or of any additional facility or for any other purposes and to fix the terms, conditions,
12 rents and rates of charges for such use; provided, that the authority shall construct any gasoline
13 service facilities which it may determine are needed on the project, and provided, further, that, to
14 afford users of the project a reasonable choice of motor fuels of different brands, each gasoline
15 service station shall be separately offered for lease upon sealed bids and, after notice of the offer
16 has been published once a week in three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general
17 circulation in the state, and, in the event an acceptable bid shall be received in the judgment of the
18 authority, each lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder therefor, but no person
19 shall be awarded or have the use of, nor shall motor fuel identified by the trade-marks, trade

1 names, or brands of any one supplier, distributor, or retailer of such fuel be sold at more than one
2 service station if they would constitute more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the service
3 stations on the project. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members of the town of
4 Jamestown police and fire department and ambulance service personnel of the town of
5 Jamestown and Jamestown school department who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay
6 a toll for use of the Newport Bridge, shall, upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of
7 the toll to the town of Jamestown, be reimbursed for all charges on an annual basis by the town of
8 Jamestown who in turn shall be reimbursed for all payments made by the state. Notwithstanding
9 the provisions of this section, members of the city of Newport police and fire department and
10 rescue personnel who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay a toll for use of the Newport
11 Bridge, shall, upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to the city of Newport,
12 be reimbursed for all charges on an annual basis by the city of Newport who in turn shall be
13 reimbursed for all payments made by the state.

14 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members of the police and fire
15 department and rescue personnel of any city or town in this state who, in the course of their duty,
16 are required to pay a toll for use of the Mount Hope Bridge, shall, upon the presentment of
17 receipts for the payment of the toll to their town or city, be reimbursed for all such charges on an
18 annual basis by the town or city, who in turn shall be reimbursed for all payments made by the
19 state.

20 (c)(1) The Rhode Island department of transportation is hereby authorized to construct
21 and maintain toll collection facilities on route 95 northbound at the Connecticut border and on
22 route 95 southbound at the Massachusetts border. Funds collected shall be deposited in the
23 Rhode Island infrastructure fund, to be created and administered by the director of the department
24 of transportation for the purpose of maintaining the interstate highways system, the Pawtucket
25 River bridge, the Sakonnet River bridge, the Mount Hope bridge, the Iway bridge and Pell bridge.

26 (2) Tolls collected for the use of the Pell bridge shall be reduced to three dollars and fifty
27 cents (\$3.50) for out of state residents, using EZ pass, four dollars (\$4.00) for non EZ pass users,
28 seventy five cents (\$.75) for Rhode Island residents using EZ pass, and one dollar (\$1.00) for
29 resident non EZ pass users.

30 (3) In the event these toll reductions result in deficiencies in the Pell Bridge maintenance
31 account, the deficiency shall be resolved by drawing the balance from the infrastructure fund.

32 **24-12-27. Amount of tolls. --** Tolls shall be so fixed and adjusted in respect of the
33 aggregate of tolls from the project or projects or the portion or portions thereof in connection with
34 which bonds shall have been issued under the provisions of this chapter as to provide a fund

1 sufficient with other revenues, if any, to pay (1) the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating
2 the project or projects or portion or portions thereof and (2) the principal of and the interest on the
3 bonds as the principal and interest shall become due and payable, and to create reserves for such
4 purposes; provided, however, that the authority shall establish commutation rates for traffic over
5 the Mount Hope Bridge by all vehicles, which rates shall not be in excess of the commutation
6 rates in effect for vehicles on January 1, 1960. ~~Tolls shall not be subject to supervision or~~
7 ~~regulation by any commission, board, bureau or agency of the state or of any municipality or~~
8 ~~other political subdivision of the state.~~

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HIGHWAYS - INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

1 This act would create the Rhode Island Infrastructure Fund from tolls placed at the
2 Massachusetts and Connecticut borders on Route 95. The fund would be used to maintain the
3 highway system and bridges within the state.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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