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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Edwards, and Gallison

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 24-12-9, 24-12-26 and 24-12-40.F of the General Laws in Chapter  
2 24-12 entitled "Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority" are hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4           **24-12-9. Powers of authority.** -- (a) The authority is hereby authorized and empowered:

5           (1) To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

6           (2) To adopt an official seal and alter it at pleasure;

7           (3) To maintain an office at such place or places within the state as it may designate;

8           (4) To sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded; provided, however, that  
9 any and all actions at law or in equity against the authority shall be brought only in the county in  
10 which the principal office of the authority shall be located;

11           (5) To determine, subject to the approval of the director of transportation, the location  
12 and the design standards of the Newport Bridge, the turnpike and any additional new facility to be  
13 constructed;

14           (6) To issue bonds of the authority for any of its purposes and to refund its bonds, all as  
15 provided in this chapter;

16           (7) To combine for financing purposes the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, the  
17 Sakonnet River Bridge, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, the turnpike and any additional  
18 facility or facilities, or any two (2) or more of such projects;

19           (8) To borrow money in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for any of its purposes and

1 to issue notes, certificates, or other evidences of borrowing in form as may be authorized by  
2 resolution of the authority, the notes, certificates, or other evidence of borrowing to be payable in  
3 the first instance from the proceeds of any bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter and  
4 to contain on their face a statement to the effect that neither the state, the authority nor any  
5 municipality or other political subdivision of the state shall be obligated to pay the same or the  
6 interest thereon except from the proceeds of bonds in anticipation of the issuance of which the  
7 notes, certificates, or other evidences of borrowing shall have been issued, or from revenues;

8 (9) To fix and revise from time to time, subject to the provisions of this chapter, and to  
9 charge and collect tolls for transit over the turnpike and the several parts or sections thereof, and  
10 for the use of the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, ~~the Sakonnet River Bridge~~, the  
11 Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge and any additional facility acquired, financed or leased under the  
12 provisions of this chapter;

13 (10) To acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property in the exercise of its  
14 powers and the performance of its duties;

15 (11) To acquire in the name of the authority by purchase or otherwise, on such terms and  
16 conditions and in such manner as it may deem proper, or by the exercise of the rights of  
17 condemnation in the manner as provided by this chapter, public or private lands, including public  
18 parks, playgrounds, or reservations, or parts thereof or rights therein, rights-of-way, property,  
19 rights, easements and interests as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of this  
20 chapter; provided, however, that all public property damaged in carrying out the powers granted  
21 by this chapter shall be restored or repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as  
22 practicable;

23 (12) To designate the locations, with the approval of the director of transportation, and  
24 establish, limit and control the points of ingress to and egress from the turnpike and any  
25 additional facility as may be necessary or desirable in the judgment of the authority to insure the  
26 proper operation and maintenance thereof, and to prohibit entrance to and exit from any point or  
27 points not so designated;

28 (13) To employ, in its discretion, consulting engineers, attorneys, accountants,  
29 construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers, and such other employees and  
30 agents as may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their compensation;

31 (14) To apply for, receive and accept from any federal agency aid and/or grants for or in  
32 aid of the repair, maintenance and/or construction of the turnpike, the Newport Bridge, the  
33 Sakonnet River Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge or any  
34 additional facility, and to receive and accept from the state, from any municipality, or other

1 political subdivision thereof and from any other source aid or contributions of either money,  
2 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied only for the purposes for  
3 which the grants and contributions may be made;

4 (15) To construct grade separations at intersections of the turnpike, the approaches and  
5 highway connections of the Newport Bridge, the Sakonnet River Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge,  
6 the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge and any additional facility with public highways, streets, or  
7 other public ways or places, and to change and adjust the lines and grades thereof so as to  
8 accommodate the same to the design of the grade separation; the cost of the grade separations and  
9 any damage incurred in changing and adjusting the lines and grades of the highways, streets,  
10 ways, and places shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project;

11 (16) To vacate or change the location of any portion of any public highway, street, or  
12 other public way or place, sewer, pipe, main, conduit, cable, wire, tower, pole, and other  
13 equipment and appliance of the state or of any municipality or other political subdivision of the  
14 state and to reconstruct the same at such new location as the authority shall deem most favorable  
15 for the project and of substantially the same type and in as good condition as the original  
16 highway, street, way, place, sewer, pipe, main, conduit, cable, wire, tower, pole, equipment, or  
17 appliance, and the cost of the reconstruction and any damage incurred in vacating or changing the  
18 location thereof shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project;  
19 any public highway, street or other public way or place vacated or relocated by the authority shall  
20 be vacated or relocated in the manner provided by law for the vacation or relocation of public  
21 roads, and any damages awarded on account thereof shall be paid by the authority as a part of the  
22 cost of the project;

23 (17) The authority shall also have the power to make reasonable regulations, subject to  
24 the approval of the public utility administrator, for the installation, construction, maintenance,  
25 repair, renewal, relocation and removal of tracks, pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, towers,  
26 poles, and other equipment and appliances (herein called "public utility facilities") of any public  
27 utility as defined in section 39-1-2, in, on, along, over or under any project. Whenever the  
28 authority shall determine that it is necessary that any public facilities which now are, or hereafter  
29 may be, located in, on, along, over, or under any project should be relocated in the project, or  
30 should be removed from the project, the public utility owning or operating the facilities shall  
31 relocate or remove the facilities in accordance with the order of the authority; provided, however,  
32 that the cost and expenses of the relocation or removal, including the cost of installing the  
33 facilities in a new location, or new locations, and the cost of any lands, or any rights or interests  
34 in lands, and any other rights acquired to accomplish the relocation or removal, less the cost of

1 any lands or any rights or interests in lands of any other rights of the public utility paid to the  
2 public utility in connection with the relocation or removal of the property, shall be ascertained  
3 and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the project. In case of any relocation or removal  
4 of facilities the public utility owning or operating the facilities, its successors or assigns, may  
5 maintain and operate the facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new  
6 locations, for as long a period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to  
7 maintain and operate the facilities in their former location or locations;

8 (18) To make reasonable regulations and to grant easements for the installation,  
9 construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, relocation, and removal of pipelines, other equipment,  
10 and appliances of any corporation or person owning or operating pipelines in, on, along, over, or  
11 under the turnpike, whenever the authority shall determine that it is necessary that any facilities  
12 which now are, or hereafter may be located in, on, along, over or under the turnpike should be  
13 relocated in the turnpike, or should be removed from the turnpike, the corporation or person  
14 owning or operating the facilities shall relocate or remove the facilities in accordance with the  
15 order of the authority; provided, however, that the cost and expense of the relocation or removal,  
16 including the cost of installing the facilities in a new location, or new locations, and the cost of  
17 any lands, or any rights or interests in lands, and any other rights acquired to accomplish the  
18 relocation or removal, less the cost of any lands or any rights or interests in lands or any other  
19 rights of any corporation or person paid to any corporation or person in connection with the  
20 relocation or removal of the property, shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of  
21 the cost of the project. In case of any relocation or removal of facilities the corporation or person  
22 owning or operating the facilities, its successors or assigns, may maintain and operate the  
23 facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new locations, for as long a  
24 period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to maintain and operate the  
25 facilities in their former location or locations;

26 (19) To enter upon any lands, waters, and premises for the purpose of making such  
27 surveys, soundings, borings, and examinations as the authority may deem necessary or  
28 convenient for its purposes, and the entry shall not be deemed a trespass, nor shall an entry for  
29 such purposes be deemed an entry under any condemnation proceedings; provided, however, the  
30 authority shall pay any actual damage resulting to the lands, water, and premises as a result of the  
31 entry and activities as a part of the cost of the project;

32 (20) To enter into contracts or agreements with any board, commission, public  
33 instrumentality of another state or the federal government or with any political subdivision of  
34 another state relating to the connection or connections to be established between the turnpike or

1 any additional facility with any public highway or turnpike now in existence or hereafter to be  
2 constructed in another state, and with respect to the construction, maintenance and operation of  
3 interstate turnpikes or expressways;

4 (21) To enter into contracts with the department of transportation with respect to the  
5 construction, reconstruction, renovation, acquisition, maintenance, repair, operation or  
6 management of any project and with the Rhode Island state police with respect to the policing of  
7 any project;

8 (22) To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the  
9 performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this chapter; and

10 (23) To do all other acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers  
11 expressly granted in this chapter.

12 (24) To grant and/or contract through the transfer of funds of the authority to the  
13 department of transportation for the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, maintenance, repair,  
14 operation or management by the department of transportation of any project or projects  
15 authorized by this chapter, and the department of transportation is authorized to accept any such  
16 grant or transfer of funds.

17 (b) Provided, the authority in carrying out the provisions of this section shall hold public  
18 hearings prior to the finalization of any specifications or the awarding of any contracts for any  
19 project.

20 **24-12-26. Power to collect tolls and charges -- Gasoline and service concessions. --** (a)

21 The authority is hereby authorized, subject to the provisions of this chapter, to fix, revise, charge  
22 and collect tolls for the use of the Newport Bridge, the Mount Hope Bridge, ~~the Sakonnet River~~  
23 ~~Bridge~~ (subject to federal regulations and approvals), the turnpike and the different parts or  
24 sections thereof, and for the use of any additional facility and the different parts or sections  
25 thereof, and to contract with any person, partnership, association or corporation for placing on  
26 any project telephone, telegraph, electric light or power lines, gas stations, garages, and  
27 restaurants if deemed necessary by the authority in connection with the project, or for the use of  
28 any project or part thereof, including the right-of-way adjoining the paved portion of the turnpike  
29 or of any additional facility or for any other purposes and to fix the terms, conditions, rents and  
30 rates of charges for such use; provided, that the authority shall construct any gasoline service  
31 facilities which it may determine are needed on the project, and provided, further, that, to afford  
32 users of the project a reasonable choice of motor fuels of different brands, each gasoline service  
33 station shall be separately offered for lease upon sealed bids and, after notice of the offer has been  
34 published once a week in three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation

1 in the state, and, in the event an acceptable bid shall be received in the judgment of the authority,  
2 each lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder therefor, but no person shall be  
3 awarded or have the use of, nor shall motor fuel identified by the trade-marks, trade names, or  
4 brands of any one supplier, distributor, or retailer of such fuel be sold at more than one service  
5 station if they would constitute more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the service stations on the  
6 project. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members of the town of Jamestown police  
7 and fire department and ambulance service personnel of the town of Jamestown and Jamestown  
8 school department who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay a toll for use of the  
9 Newport Bridge, shall, upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to the town of  
10 Jamestown, be reimbursed for all charges on an annual basis by the town of Jamestown who in  
11 turn shall be reimbursed for all payments made by the state. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
12 this section, members of the city of Newport police and fire department and rescue personnel  
13 who, in the course of their duty, are required to pay a toll for use of the Newport Bridge, shall,  
14 upon the presentment of receipts for the payment of the toll to the city of Newport, be reimbursed  
15 for all charges on an annual basis by the city of Newport who in turn shall be reimbursed for all  
16 payments made by the state.

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

23 ~~24-12-40.F. Title to Sakonnet River Bridge vested in Rhode Island turnpike and~~  
24 ~~bridge authority -- Institution of tolls~~ **Title to Sakonnet River Bridge vested in Rhode Island**  
25 **turnpike and bridge authority. --** All powers, control, and jurisdiction of and title to the  
26 Sakonnet River Bridge is authorized to be transferred to the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge  
27 authority. ~~The authority may charge and collect tolls for the use of the Sakonnet River Bridge to~~  
28 ~~provide funds sufficient with any other monies available therefor~~ The general assembly shall  
29 make an annual appropriation of not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the Rhode  
30 Island turnpike and bridge authority in lieu of any charge and collection of tolls for the use of the  
31 Sakonnet River Bridge combined with any other monies available therefor for paying the costs of  
32 acquiring, leasing, maintaining, repairing and operating, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, the  
33 Mount Hope Bridge, the Newport Bridge, and the Sakonnet River Bridge, the turnpike and  
34 additional facilities. Said annual appropriation shall be made by transferring said sum from the

1 [monies appropriated for advertising and public relations allowed to be collected and/or dispersed](#)  
2 [by the state lottery division by Twin River pursuant to the provisions of section 42-61.2-7.](#)

3 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 repeal the power granted to the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge  
2 authority to charge and collect tolls for use of the Sakonnet River Bridge. The loss of revenue  
3 would be replaced by an annual appropriation of not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)  
4 by the general assembly resulting in the transfer of said sum from monies appropriated for  
5 advertising and/or public relations by Twin River.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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