

2024 -- H 7757

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- SCENIC HIGHWAYS

Introduced By: Representative Justine A. Caldwell

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

(Dept. of Transportation)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 24-15-10 and 24-15-10.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 24-15
2 entitled "Scenic Highways" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **24-15-10. Creation of board.**

4 There is hereby authorized, created and established within the executive department a
5 scenic roadways board consisting of ~~eleven (11)~~ nine (9) members as follows: one member shall
6 be the director of the department of transportation or ~~his or her~~ the director's designee who shall be
7 a subordinate within the department of transportation; one member shall be the director of the
8 department of environmental management or ~~his or her~~ the director's designee who shall be a
9 subordinate within the department of environmental management; one member shall be the chair
10 of the historic preservation commission; one member shall be appointed by the governor with the
11 advice and consent of the senate giving due consideration to the recommendation of Grow Smart
12 Rhode Island; one member shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the
13 senate giving due consideration to the recommendation of the Rhode Island builders association;
14 ~~six (6)~~ four (4) members shall be appointed by the governor from the general public with the advice
15 and consent of the senate, in making these appointments, the governor shall take into consideration
16 the impact on the local communities. The governor shall give due consideration to members of
17 local land trusts, chamber of commerce recommendations and shall also consider the need for
18 individuals with expertise in landscape architecture, community planning, and/or transportation
19 engineers with experience with traffic calming and flexible design policies. The members shall be

1 chosen as far as is reasonably practicable to represent geographical diversity and communities
2 where designated scenic roadways exist. During the month of January, in each year the governor
3 shall appoint a member to succeed the departing member. The newly appointed member shall serve
4 for a term of three (3) years or until their respective successors are appointed and qualified. The
5 members of the board shall be eligible to succeed themselves. Any vacancy of a public member
6 which may occur in the board shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the remainder of
7 the unexpired term in the same manner as the member's predecessor as prescribed in this section.
8 The membership of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, and shall not be
9 reimbursed for any expenses. Those members of the board as of the effective date of this act [July
10 9, 2005] who were appointed to the board by members of the general assembly shall cease to be
11 members of the board on the effective date of this act, and the governor shall thereupon appoint the
12 four (4) new members as prescribed in this section. Those members of the board as of the effective
13 date of this act [July 9, 2005] who were appointed to the board by the governor shall continue to
14 serve the balance of their current terms. Upon the expiration of the term of the member representing
15 the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the governor shall appoint a new member, and shall give
16 due consideration to the recommendation of Grow Smart Rhode Island. Thereafter, the
17 appointments shall be made by the governor as prescribed in this section. No one shall be eligible
18 for appointment unless he or she is a resident of this state. The director of the department of
19 transportation shall direct staff to support the board within the constraints of available resources.

20 **24-15-10.1. Chair, quorum and removal for cause.**

21 (a) Upon the passage of this act and the appointment and qualification of the four (4) new
22 members prescribed in § 24-15-10, the board shall meet at the call of the director of transportation
23 and shall elect from among the members a chair and a vice-chair. Thereafter, the board shall
24 annually elect in February a chair and a vice-chair from among the members. The board may elect
25 from among its members such other officers as it deems necessary.

26 (b) ~~Six (6)~~ Five (5) members of the board shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of
27 those present and voting shall be required for action.

28 (c) Members of the board shall be removable by the governor pursuant to § 36-1-7 and for
29 cause only, and removal solely for partisan or personal reasons unrelated to capacity or fitness for
30 the office shall be unlawful.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would amend the composition of the scenic roadways board reducing the number
2 of members from eleven (11) to nine (9).

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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