

2019 -- S 1025

LC002861

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS - CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE  
ROADS

Introduced By: Senator Ryan W. Pearson

Date Introduced: June 26, 2019

Referred To: Placed on Senate Calendar

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 24-5-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 24-5 entitled  
2 "Maintenance of Town Highways" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **24-5-1.1. Alteration of roadways.**

4 (a) Any person, firm, or corporation including utilities and contractors who alter a  
5 roadway that is subject to the provisions of this chapter shall restore that portion of the roadway  
6 which was altered to the same or better condition that existed prior to alteration.

7 (b) Municipalities shall adopt by ordinance standards for use of steel or other suitably  
8 manufactured plates on municipal roadways which shall, at a minimum, require compliance with  
9 the provisions specified in § 24-8-45.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 24-8 of the General Laws entitled "Construction and Maintenance  
11 of State Roads" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

12 **24-8-45. Steel plate use.**

13 (a) The director of the department of transportation shall establish rules and regulations  
14 for the use of steel plates on roadway surfaces used to protect an excavation. At a minimum the  
15 rules and regulations shall consider steel plates designed for the safety of vehicles and pedestrians  
16 to include:

17 (1) Steel plates shall withstand traffic loading without movement;

18 (2) When two (2) or more steel plates are used, the plates shall be welded in a manner to

1 eliminate vertical movement;

2 (3) All steel plates shall be marked with the utility or contractor name and contact  
3 information;

4 (4) Steel plates shall be installed to extend a minimum of eighteen inches (18") beyond  
5 the edge of the excavation;

6 (5) Temporary paving with a cold asphalt mix or installation of other suitably  
7 manufactured equipment shall be used to feather the edges of the plate to form a wedged taper to  
8 cover the edges of the steel plate;

9 (6) Each corner of the steel plate shall be marked with durable and highly reflective white  
10 pavement marking tape no less than four inches (4") in width;

11 (7) The exposed surface area of the steel plate shall be slip resistant when required by the  
12 DPW director or other appropriate municipal approval authority; and

13 (8) All signage advising motorists of the steel plate shall be in compliance with the current  
14 addition of the manual on uniform traffic control devices.

15 (b) The director of the department of transportation may authorize use of steel plates on  
16 roadway surfaces which fail to comply with subsection (a) of this section in an emergency  
17 situation or for public safety purposes.

18 SECTION 3. 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 require that the director of transportation establish rules and regulations
- 2   for the use of steel plates on roadway surfaces. The act would also require that municipalities
- 3   adopt by ordinance the state standards for steel plate use on municipal roadways.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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