

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators Tikoian, Raptakis, Quezada, Ciccone, Murray, F. Lombardi, Britto, Burke, Rogers, and Felag

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

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 100

4 VEHICLE BARRIERS

5 **23-100-1. Short title.**

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

7 **23-100-2. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

9 (1) "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, lessor, or sublessor of commercial real estate  
10 (as such term is 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 foods or goods.

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

17 **23-100-3. Installation of vehicle barriers.**

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

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

4 **23-100-4. 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

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

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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