

2015 -- H 5801

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS—CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE  
ROADS

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Lombardi, Barros, Palangio, and DeSimone

Date Introduced: March 05, 2015

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 24-8 of the General Laws entitled "Construction and Maintenance  
2 of State Roads" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **24-8-15.1. Snow and ice removal -- City or town priority plan.** – (a) Cities and towns  
4 required to maintain state roads pursuant to this chapter shall develop and implement a "snow  
5 removal priority plan" which emphasizes safety and efficiency. The plan shall include, but not be  
6 limited to, the following levels of priority to be assigned to various roads and/or facilities:

7 (1) Level one snow removal priority status shall apply to all roads and bridges including  
8 dead end streets, public transportation stops, residential health care facilities and/or any facility  
9 for the elderly and/or disabled. Level one priority status pursuant to this section means that any  
10 division of state or municipal government shall keep clear from obstruction from snow all areas  
11 included under this section prior to or in conjunction with any other area deemed a priority by a  
12 state or municipal agency.

13 (2) Level two (2) priority status shall apply to all roads, bridges and/or facilities not  
14 included in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

15 (b) Cities and towns shall be provided twenty-four (24) hours within which to commence  
16 snow removal pursuant to this section. The time table begins once the areas are obstructed and  
17 obstructions shall be completely removed within three (3) days.

18 **24-8-15.2. Snow and ice removal – Private maintenance of public pedestrian**

1 **facilities required.** – Wherever snow and ice removal on or around state property shall be the  
2 express responsibility of any private party pursuant to a state or municipal contract or agreement,  
3 the following shall apply:

4 (1) Snow and ice shall be removed from any area or structure which the state or any  
5 municipality has expressly designated pursuant to contract or agreement to be maintained by a  
6 private party for snow and ice removal. Snow removal pursuant to this section shall commence  
7 within twenty-four (24) hours after the areas required to be maintained become obstructed. Said  
8 private party shall then have three (3) days within which to remove the obstruction completely.  
9 Removal of the obstruction for purposes of this section shall including clearing an access path  
10 and keeping all surrounding areas to any structure clear of snow and ice. A "structure" for  
11 purposes of this section shall include, but not be limited to, any public transportation stop, school  
12 bus stop, cross walk and other areas where state property is maintained by a private party and  
13 used for public uses.

14 (2) If snow is allowed to remain in any area mentioned herein so as to obstruct reasonable  
15 passage to the area or structure for twenty-four (24) hours after the area becomes obstructed, said  
16 private party shall be in violation of this section and shall be fined not less than one hundred  
17 dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation.

18 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—CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE  
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1           This act would require cities and towns to implement a snow removal priority plan to  
2 place a degree of importance when removing snow from certain roads and facilities and would  
3 require private parties maintaining state-owned areas to keep areas clear within twenty-four (24)  
4 hours of the area becoming obstructed, or face fines for failure to do so.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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