

1 company; nor shall any member of the authority personally, or through a partner or agent, render
2 any professional service or make or perform any business contract with or for any company; nor
3 shall any member of the authority, directly or indirectly, receive a commission, bonus, discount,
4 present, or reward from any company.

5 (i) Members of the authority shall be removable by the governor pursuant to the provisions
6 of § 36-1-7 and for cause only, and removal solely for partisan or personal reasons unrelated to
7 capacity or fitness for the office shall be unlawful.

8 (j) The authority shall conduct a training course for newly appointed and qualified members
9 within six (6) months of their qualification or designation. The course shall be developed by the
10 general manager of the authority, be approved by the authority, and be conducted by the general
11 manager of the authority. The authority may approve the use of any authority and/or staff members
12 and/or individuals to assist with training. The training course shall include instruction in the
13 following areas: the provisions of chapter 46 of title 42, chapter 14 of title 36, and chapter 2 of title
14 38; and the authority's rules and regulations. The director of the department of administration shall
15 be responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this subsection.

16 SECTION 3. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
17 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

18 CHAPTER 13.2

19 RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY AND
20 PERFORMANCE AUDIT ACT

21 **42-13.2-1. Definitions.**

22 As used in this chapter:

23 (1) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of transportation.

24 (2) "DOA" means the Rhode Island department of administration.

25 (3) "Audit" means an independent efficiency and performance audit conducted in
26 accordance with this chapter.

27 (4) "Peer state" means a state transportation agency selected for benchmarking based on
28 geography, climate, system size, and procurement framework.

29 **42-13.2-2. Requirement to commission efficiency and performance audit.**

30 (a) The Office of Internal Audit and Program Integrity within DOA shall commission an
31 efficiency and performance audit of the department.

32 (b) The audit shall be completed on or before January 1, 2027.

33 **42-13.2-3. Scope of audit.**

34 (a) The audit shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1 [\(1\) Asset management, including pavement, bridges, culverts, intelligent transportation](#)
2 [systems assets, backlog replacement needs, and lifecycle cost analysis; and](#)

3 [\(2\) Maintenance efficiency, including cost per lane-mile, snow and ice operations](#)
4 [productivity, maintenance productivity, and equipment utilization;](#)

5 [\(b\) The audit pursuant to this section shall be separate and independent of any audit](#)
6 [conducted by the auditor general pursuant to chapter 13 of title 22 \(“auditor general”\).](#)

7 **42-13.2-4. Maintenance and operations efficiency.**

8 [The audit conducted pursuant to § 42-13.2-2 shall assess maintenance and operations](#)
9 [efficiency, including:](#)

10 [\(1\) Cost per lane-mile by district;](#)

11 [\(2\) Salt and chemical usage normalized by lane-mile and weather severity;](#)

12 [\(3\) Vehicle and equipment availability and downtime;](#)

13 [\(4\) Maintenance backlog tracking; and](#)

14 [\(5\) Overtime utilization and patterns.](#)

15 **42-13.2-5. Reporting and public availability.**

16 [\(a\) Upon completion, the audit shall be submitted to:](#)

17 [\(1\) The governor;](#)

18 [\(2\) The president of the senate;](#)

19 [\(3\) The speaker of the house of representatives; and](#)

20 [\(4\) The chairs of the house and senate finance committees.](#)

21 [\(b\) The final audit report shall be made publicly available on the DOA’s website.](#)

22 **42-13.2-6. Cooperation and access to records.**

23 [The department shall cooperate fully with the audit and provide access to all records, data,](#)
24 [contracts, and personnel reasonably necessary to complete the audit.](#)

25 SECTION 4. Chapter 42-14 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Business
26 Regulation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

27 **42-14-20. Electronic permitting report.**

28 [\(a\) The department shall include a report that reviews, analyzes, and assesses functions](#)
29 [related to electronic permitting and the electronic permitting platform identified in § 23-27.3-108.2](#)
30 [with its annual budget submission to the office of management and budget for the fiscal year ending](#)
31 [June 30, 2027. The report shall additionally contain suggested statutory revisions, including, but](#)
32 [not limited, to clarifying permitting statutes, aligning fees with programmatic costs, and ensuring](#)
33 [efficient administration.](#)

34 SECTION 5. Section 42-17.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-17.1 entitled