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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1312 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, FONTANA, COSTA, SCHWANK, FLYNN,  
CAPPELLETTI, MUTH, SANTARSIERO AND KANE, AUGUST 24, 2022

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REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, AUGUST 24, 2022

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for bridge inspection and  
3 maintenance.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 74 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 94

9 BRIDGE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

10 Sec.

11 9401. Definitions.

12 9402. Departmental database for bridges.

13 9403. County database for bridges.

14 9404. Municipal database for bridges.

15 9405. Inspection standards.

16 9406. Audits.

17 § 9401. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the  
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Metropolitan planning organization." A metropolitan  
6 planning organization established in accordance with 23 CFR Ch.  
7 1 Subch. E Pt. 450 (relating to planning assistance and  
8 standards).

9 § 9402. Departmental database for bridges.

10 (a) Database.--The department shall develop and maintain a  
11 publicly accessible database for all bridges in this  
12 Commonwealth that are maintained with Federal, State, county or  
13 municipal expense. The department shall design the database to  
14 be searchable and organized by county, municipality and the  
15 department's engineering district. The department shall include  
16 all of the following information in the database:

17 (1) The bridge name and location, including all of the  
18 following information:

19 (i) The street, road, highway or interstate  
20 designation.

21 (ii) The county and municipality where the bridge is  
22 located.

23 (iii) The department's engineering district where  
24 the bridge is located.

25 (2) The date of the bridge's construction.

26 (3) Inspection information for the bridge, including all  
27 of the following:

28 (i) The date of the bridge's most recent inspection.

29 (ii) The inspection cycle applicable to the bridge.

30 (iii) The condition or rating of the bridge,

1 including engineer notes.

2 (iv) The restrictions applicable to the bridge based  
3 on the most recent inspection.

4 (v) The name of the engineering firm or certified  
5 bridge inspector who performed the bridge's most recent  
6 inspection.

7 (4) The proposed schedule regarding reconstruction,  
8 maintenance or repair of the bridge as determined by the  
9 department, county or municipality, as applicable. The  
10 department shall include an estimate of the costs for the  
11 reconstruction, maintenance or repair if available.

12 (5) Any other information that the department is  
13 required to make publicly available under Federal or State  
14 law or that the department determines is necessary to  
15 effectuate the purposes of this chapter regarding public  
16 access to bridge inspection information and safety.

17 (b) Access.--The department shall make the information under  
18 subsection (a) accessible to the appropriate metropolitan  
19 planning organization and the department's engineering district  
20 where the bridge is located.

21 § 9403. County database for bridges.

22 (a) Database.--Each county shall develop and maintain a  
23 publicly accessible database of all bridges in the county that  
24 are maintained at county expense. Each county shall design the  
25 database to be searchable and organized by municipality. Each  
26 county shall include all of the following information in the  
27 database:

28 (1) The bridge name and location, including all of the  
29 following information:

30 (i) The street, road, highway or interstate

1 designation.

2 (ii) The county and municipality where the bridge is  
3 located.

4 (iii) The department's engineering district where  
5 the bridge is located.

6 (2) The date of the bridge's construction.

7 (3) Inspection information for the bridge, including all  
8 of the following:

9 (i) The date of the bridge's most recent inspection.

10 (ii) The inspection cycle applicable to the bridge.

11 (iii) The condition or rating of the bridge,  
12 including engineer notes.

13 (iv) The restrictions applicable to the bridge based  
14 on the most recent inspection.

15 (v) The name of the engineering firm or certified  
16 bridge inspector who performed the bridge's most recent  
17 inspection.

18 (4) The proposed schedule regarding reconstruction,  
19 maintenance or repair of the bridge as determined by each  
20 county. Each county shall include an estimate of the costs  
21 for the reconstruction, maintenance or repair if available.

22 (5) Any other information that each county is required  
23 to make publicly available by Federal or State law or that  
24 each county or the department determines is necessary to  
25 effectuate the purposes of this chapter regarding public  
26 access to bridge inspection information and safety.

27 (b) Submission.--Each county shall submit the information  
28 under subsection (a) to the department on a quarterly basis. The  
29 department shall include the information received under this  
30 subsection in the database under section 9402 (relating to

1 departmental database for bridges).

2 (c) Access.--Each county shall provide the information under  
3 subsection (a) to the appropriate metropolitan planning  
4 organization and the department's engineering district where the  
5 bridge is located.

6 § 9404. Municipal database for bridges.

7 (a) Database.--Each municipality shall develop and maintain  
8 a publicly accessible database of all bridges in each  
9 municipality that are maintained at municipal expense. Each  
10 municipality shall include all of the following information in  
11 the database:

12 (1) The bridge name and location, including all of the  
13 following information:

14 (i) The street, road, highway or interstate  
15 designation.

16 (ii) The county and municipality where the bridge is  
17 located.

18 (iii) The department's engineering district where  
19 the bridge is located.

20 (2) The date of the bridge's construction.

21 (3) Inspection information for the bridge, including all  
22 of the following information:

23 (i) The date of the bridge's most recent inspection.

24 (ii) The inspection cycle applicable to the bridge.

25 (iii) The condition or rating of the bridge,  
26 including engineer notes.

27 (iv) The restrictions applicable to the bridge based  
28 on the bridge's most recent inspection.

29 (v) The name of the engineering firm or certified  
30 bridge inspector who performed the bridge's most recent

1           inspection.

2           (4) The proposed schedule regarding reconstruction,  
3           maintenance or repair of the bridge as determined by each  
4           municipality. Each municipality shall include an estimate of  
5           costs for the reconstruction, maintenance or repair if  
6           available.

7           (5) Any other information that each municipality is  
8           required to make publicly available by Federal or State law  
9           or that each municipality or the department determines is  
10          necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter  
11          regarding public access to bridge inspection information and  
12          safety.

13          (b) Submission.--Each municipality shall submit the  
14          information under subsection (a) to the department on a  
15          quarterly basis. The department shall include the information  
16          received under this subsection in the database under section  
17          9402 (relating to departmental database for bridges).

18          (c) Access.--Each municipality shall provide the information  
19          under subsection (a) to the appropriate metropolitan planning  
20          organization and the department's engineering district where the  
21          bridge is located.

22          § 9405. Inspection standards.

23          (a) Standards.--The department shall adopt and publish  
24          standards used for the inspection of bridges in this  
25          Commonwealth that are applicable to the bridges specified in the  
26          database under section 9402 (relating to departmental database  
27          for bridges), including county and municipal bridges. In the  
28          standards adopted under this subsection, the department shall  
29          require that bridge inspections be completed by a certified  
30          bridge inspector.

1     (b) Bridge inspectors.--The department and each county and  
2 municipality required to perform bridge inspections and develop  
3 databases under this chapter shall ensure that bridge  
4 inspections are completed by a certified bridge inspector. In  
5 order to qualify as a certified bridge inspector under this  
6 subsection, an individual shall meet all of the following  
7 criteria:

8           (1) The individual shall be a licensed and registered  
9 engineer as recognized by the State Registration Board for  
10 Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists under  
11 the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the  
12 Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law.

13           (2) The individual shall have five years' experience  
14 engaging in bridge inspection service.

15           (3) The individual shall be a Level III or IV Bridge  
16 Safety Inspector under the National Society of Professional  
17 Engineers program for National Institute for Certification in  
18 Engineering Technologies in effect on the date of enactment  
19 of this chapter.

20           (4) The individual shall meet any other criteria as  
21 deemed necessary by the department.

22 § 9406. Audits.

23     The Auditor General shall, on a quadrennial basis, inspect  
24 the records relating to each bridge in this Commonwealth in the  
25 database under section 9402 (relating to departmental database  
26 for bridges). The Auditor General shall determine and issue a  
27 report to the General Assembly regarding whether all of the  
28 following have been completed:

29           (1) The bridge has been inspected within the time  
30 scheduled for the safety rating of the bridge.

1           (2) The inspection report has been filed.

2           (3) The inspection was completed by a certified bridge  
3 inspector.

4           (4) The department, county or municipality, as  
5 applicable, has developed and filed a plan and schedule for  
6 the reconstruction, maintenance or repair of the bridge as  
7 determined by the department, municipality or county.

8           (5) The information under this section has been provided  
9 to the appropriate metropolitan planning organization and the  
10 department's engineering district where the bridge is  
11 located.

12       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.