
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 147 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, FONTANA, KANE, SCHWANK AND COSTA,
JANUARY 19, 2023

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 19, 2023

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.