

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5081

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 2, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. NORRIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the canal law, in relation to maintaining bridges in a manner to not impede commercial motor vehicles

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 62 of the canal law, as amended by chapter 335 of  
2 the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 62. Maintenance by state of certain bridges over the canal system.  
4 All highway or pedestrian, lift or movable bridges over the canal system  
5 other than highway bridges connecting parts of a state highway hereto-  
6 fore constructed as a part of the barge canal improvement shall be  
7 reconstructed, improved, maintained and repaired at the expense of the  
8 state, [~~if in the opinion of the commissioner of transportation, the~~  
9 ~~public convenience requires such bridges to be maintained where no~~  
10 ~~alternate crossing has been provided]~~ in a manner so as not to impede  
11 commercial motor vehicles as defined in subdivision four-a of section  
12 two of the transportation law. In the event the commissioner of trans-  
13 portation determines that any such bridge is no longer required for the  
14 convenience of the public, he shall have power to close, remove or relo-  
15 cate such bridge, provided at least one public hearing shall be  
16 conducted in the community or communities where the bridge to be closed  
17 or removed is located. The commissioner of transportation shall have  
18 the supervision and direction of such reconstruction, improvement, main-  
19 tenance, repair, closing, removing or relocation. All bridges over the  
20 canal system other than lift, movable, pedestrian or state highway  
21 bridges heretofore constructed as part of the barge canal improvement  
22 shall be reconstructed, improved, maintained and repaired at the expense  
23 of the state under the supervision and direction of the commissioner of  
24 transportation, if, in his opinion, the public convenience requires that  
25 each such bridge shall be continued as a bridge for highway traffic. In

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 the event the commissioner of transportation is requested by any municipi-  
2 pality to reconstruct or improve any such bridge, he is hereby empowered  
3 to do so, provided, however, that prior to such reconstruction or  
4 improvement the municipality enters into a written agreement that such  
5 bridge thereafter shall become a part of the highway system or systems  
6 which it may connect and the maintenance, repair, improvement, replace-  
7 ment or closing of any such bridge shall be governed by the provisions  
8 of the highway law, except that any such bridges situate in a city shall  
9 be maintained, repaired, improved, replaced or closed in the same manner  
10 and subject to the provisions of any special law which may apply or to  
11 the same provisions of law as apply to other streets and bridges in such  
12 city or in the case of such bridges situate in a village, such bridges  
13 shall be maintained, repaired, improved, replaced or closed in the same  
14 manner and subject to the same provisions of law as apply to other  
15 streets and bridges in such village. Any bridge over the New York state  
16 canal system or abandoned part thereof which joins parts of a state  
17 highway shall be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of transpor-  
18 tation and deemed to be part of the state highway system and such bridg-  
19 es shall be constructed, reconstructed, improved, maintained, repaired,  
20 closed or relocated pursuant to the provisions of the highway law and  
21 the cost of such work shall be paid from moneys available for  
22 construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance or repair of  
23 state highways.

24 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.