

STATE OF NEW YORK

6304--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 12, 2023

Introduced by Sens. KENNEDY, HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to requiring the department of transportation to maintain a website or webpage where users may report defects on state highways and bridges

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

Section 1. Section 14 of the transportation law is amended by adding a new subdivision 37 to read as follows:

37. (a) The department shall maintain a toll-free twenty-four hour defect-reporting hotline and shall develop and make available a website, or develop and make available a page on its website:

(i) providing an opportunity for website users to report defects on state highways and bridges, as well as any other arteries within the department's jurisdiction; and

(ii) providing a web mapping service application displaying the locations of the reported defects and any departmental actions responding to and remedying the reported defects. Mapping service applications shall include any additional information the department deems necessary.

(b) The website shall (i) make provision for each defect reporter to provide their name, as well as an electronic mail address or telephone number at which the reporter can be contacted by the department with updates on the defect reported, though anonymous reporting shall also be permitted;

(ii) track and preserve defects reported in list and map format; and

(iii) provide an option for reporting of region- and highway-wide defects as well as specific defects along more particularized locations, including, without limitation, mile markers.

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

LBD05971-02-4

1 (c) The listing and map shall be updated no less than once every five
2 days to reflect any defects reported and repairs made. Defects and
3 repairs reported shall be preserved for a minimum of three hundred
4 sixty-five days from the time of reporting or repair.

5 (d) The department may collect and report such additional information
6 and issues with respect to highway and bridge conditions and defects as
7 it deems necessary.

8 (e) The department shall also enable persons to report defects located
9 on the state thruway system on this interactive website and application,
10 and is authorized and directed to coordinate with the thruway authority
11 in creating or modifying the interactive website and application to
12 share, or enable the thruway authority to receive, reports of defects in
13 locations for which it is responsible no more than twenty-four hours
14 after the defect is reported. The department is authorized to provide
15 the thruway authority with joint access to maintain and monitor the
16 interactive website and application, and may enter into a cost-sharing
17 arrangement with the authority.

18 (f) To the extent practicable, the department shall communicate
19 defects reported to its interactive website and application on county
20 roads and town highways to the local official responsible for such road
21 or highway. The commissioner shall discuss any difficulties encountered
22 by such commissioner in implementing this paragraph during the joint
23 legislative budget hearing convened pursuant to article VII of the state
24 constitution and section thirty-one of the legislative law, beginning no
25 later than the hearing to be scheduled in calendar year two thousand
26 twenty-five.

27 (g) Nothing in this authorization shall preclude the department from
28 permitting defects unrelated to the road and highway network from being
29 reported to this website or application.

30 (h) Identifying information for the defect reporter shall be exempt
31 from the provisions of section eighty-seven of the public officers law,
32 and shall not be shared by the department or thruway authority or any
33 entity with whom the department or authority contracts in implementing
34 this legislation.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
36 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
37 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
38 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
39 completed on or before such effective date.