STATE OF NEW YORK

10094

IN SENATE

April 28, 2026

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the highway law, in relation to establishing statewide data collection and monitoring requirements for winter road maintenance and road salt application; and to amend the transportation law, in relation to requiring the calibration of highway deicing material application equipment

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

Section 1. The highway law is amended by adding a new article 3-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3-A

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

Section 70. Definitions.
71. Statewide winter maintenance data system.
72. Required operational data collection.
73. Equipment and technology integration.
74. Municipal data partnership program.
75. Environmental data coordination.
76. Reporting requirements.
77. Rulemaking.

§ 70. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Department" means the New York state department of transportation.

2. "Road salt" means sodium chloride or other chloride-based compounds used for snow and ice control on roadways.

3. "Winter maintenance operation" means snow and ice control activities conducted on public highways including plowing, salting, sanding, or application of liquid deicing materials.

4. "Operator" means an employee or contractor responsible for operating winter maintenance equipment applying materials to roadways.

5. "Maintenance vehicle" means a truck or other vehicle equipped for snow and ice control operations.

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

LBD15575-01-6

§ 71. Statewide winter maintenance data system. 1. The department shall develop and maintain a statewide winter maintenance operational data system for the collection and management of data related to snow and ice control activities on state-maintained highways.

2. Such system shall, include, but not be limited to:

(a) Utilize digital reporting where practicable;

(b) Be capable of integrating with automated vehicle location systems, spreader control technology, and road weather information systems;

(c) Provide standardized formats for recording winter maintenance activities; and

(d) Be publicly accessible on the department's website, and be updated monthly.

3. The department may promulgate regulations necessary to implement and administer such system.

§ 72. Required operational data collection. 1. For each winter maintenance operation conducted on state-maintained highways, the department shall ensure that the following information is recorded and maintained within the statewide winter maintenance operational data system established pursuant to this article:

(a) Date of operation;

(b) Operator name;

(c) Truck or equipment number;

(d) Record created by (name);

(e) Record updated by (name);

(f) Record modification indicator (yes/no); and

(g) Operator remarks.

2. For each winter maintenance route or work activity, the following operational metrics shall be recorded:

(a) Total trip miles;

(b) Total spread miles;

(c) Work order number or identifier;

(d) Beat identification number or maintenance route identifier; and

(e) Task code identifying maintenance activity.

3. For each material applied during a winter maintenance operation, the following information shall be recorded:

(a) Dry materials, including dry material code and the total dry material amount used; and

(b) Liquid materials, including liquid material code and the total liquid material amount used.

4. The following application performance data shall be recorded where applicable:

(a) Application rate;

(b) Number of lanes spread; and

(c) Pounds per lane mile (lbs/LM).

5. Where available through operational observation or integrated weather systems, the following environmental conditions shall be recorded:

(a) Snow and ice event code;

(b) Highway conditions code;

(c) Air temperature; and

(d) Road surface temperature.

6. Where practicable, the department shall ensure that the data elements required under this section may be captured through automated systems including, but not limited to:

(a) spreader control systems;

(b) automated vehicle location technology; and

(c) road weather information systems.

§ 73. Equipment and technology integration. 1. Where practicable, the department shall utilize winter maintenance equipment capable of electronically recording and transmitting operational data including, but not limited to:

(a) Material application rates;

(b) Spread distances;

(c) Vehicle location; and

(d) Time of application.

2. The department shall prioritize integration of:

(a) Automated vehicle location systems;

(b) Spreader controller technology; and

(c) Road weather information systems.

§ 74. Municipal data partnership program. 1. The department shall establish a voluntary municipal winter maintenance data partnership program enabling counties, towns, villages, and cities to participate in the statewide winter maintenance data system.

2. The department may provide participating municipalities with:

(a) Technical assistance;

(b) Access to the statewide data platform; and

(c) Guidance on standardized reporting practices.

§ 75. Environmental data coordination. The department shall coordinate with the department of environmental conservation to utilize winter maintenance operational data for the purposes of:

(a) Monitoring chloride levels in surface waters and groundwater;

(b) Identifying areas of high road salt application; and

(c) Informing statewide road salt reduction strategies.

§ 76. Reporting requirements. 1. Beginning two years after the effective date of this article, the department shall submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature summarizing:

(a) Total road salt usage on state-maintained highways;

(b) Trends in application rates;

(c) Operational efficiency metrics; and

(d) Participation of municipal partners in the data system.

2. Such report shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

§ 77. Rulemaking. The department may promulgate regulations necessary for the implementation of this article including:

(a) Standardized data definitions and codes;

(b) Reporting formats; and

(c) Data submission requirements.

§ 2. The transportation law is amended by adding a new section 23 to read as follows:

§ 23. Calibration of highway deicing material application equipment. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Deicing material" means sodium chloride, treated salt, brine, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sand-salt mixtures, or any other material applied to public roadways for the purpose of snow and ice control.

(b) "Application equipment" means any mechanical spreader, sprayer, pre-wetting system, or other device mounted on or integrated with a vehicle used to apply deicing materials to a roadway.

(c) "Calibration" means the process of verifying and adjusting equipment to ensure that deicing materials are applied at known and accurate rates under specified operating conditions.

(d) "Responsible entity" means the department, any county, city, town, village, public authority, or contractor responsible for winter maintenance of public roadways.

2. (a) All deicing material application equipment used for winter highway maintenance on public roads within the state shall be calibrated to ensure accurate application rates.

(b) Calibration shall ensure that the relationship between vehicle speed, spreader control settings, and material output rate is documented and verifiable.

(c) No responsible entity shall deploy application equipment for operational winter maintenance unless such equipment has been calibrated in accordance with this section.

3. Application equipment shall be calibrated:

(a) At least once annually prior to the start of each winter maintenance season;

(b) Whenever equipment is repaired, modified, or adjusted in a manner that may affect material output;

(c) When a new spreader, controller, or liquid application system is installed; and

(d) At intervals established by regulation of the commissioner.

4. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, shall promulgate regulations establishing:

(i) Standardized calibration procedures;

(ii) Acceptable tolerances for material application rates;

(iii) Methods for calibrating granular and liquid application systems; and

(iv) Documentation and verification requirements.

(b) Such standards shall incorporate best practices recommended by the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Report.

5. Each responsible entity shall maintain records of calibration for all application equipment, including:

(a) Date of calibration;

(b) Equipment identification number;

(c) Type of material calibrated;

(d) Calibration method used;

(e) Verified application rate ranges; and

(f) Name of the individual performing the calibration.

Records shall be retained for no less than five years and made publicly available on an annual basis.

6. (a) The commissioner may require responsible entities to submit periodic certification confirming that all application equipment has been calibrated in accordance with this section.

(b) The commissioner may conduct audits or inspections to verify compliance.

7. The department, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, may provide guidance, training, and technical assistance to municipalities and highway agencies to facilitate compliance with this section.

8. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 3. This act shall take effect two years after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.