

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9056

## IN SENATE

January 28, 2026

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

AN ACT in relation to establishing a comprehensive study examining highway safety standards and necessary worker protection improvements

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

1 Section 1. Road construction workers face increased safety risks.  
2 According to the United States department of transportation, aging high-  
3 way and road infrastructure requires work on roads that are more heavily  
4 utilized. This requires more work during high volume traffic times and  
5 creates more congestion and more safety considerations for highway work-  
6 ers.

7 New York state has been a leader in worker safety, however the New  
8 York state department of transportation data reveals that there were  
9 over 670 work zone intrusions, 171 worker injuries in work zones, and  
10 two worker fatalities in work zones in the years 2024 and 2025 combined.

11 § 2. The commissioner of transportation shall enter into a contract  
12 with a third-party entity to conduct a comprehensive study of worker  
13 safety on highway road projects. The contracted entity shall gather and  
14 consider feedback from a broad range of stake-holders, including but not  
15 limited to the New York state department of transportation, road  
16 contractors, road-construction unions, roadway workers, project adminis-  
17 trators, municipal officials, and roadway contractor associations. The  
18 contracted entity shall hold at least three public hearings across the  
19 state to gather input from such stakeholders.

20 § 3. The results, findings, and recommendations of the study shall be  
21 for study purposes only and shall not be considered binding upon the  
22 executive or the legislature in any manner.

23 § 4. The study shall evaluate each component of the current road safe-  
24 ty laws and regulations and other relevant factors, including but not  
25 limited to:

26 (a) whether the current road safety regulatory framework adequately  
27 protect road construction workers;

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

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1 (b) best practices in the road construction industry, including meth-  
2 ods used in other states or countries;

3 (c) data driven analysis models to improve worker protection in road-  
4 way construction; and

5 (d) anticipated costs associated with implementing new road safety  
6 rules and regulations reviewed as part of the study.

7 Such study shall identify the industry-best practices that could be  
8 implemented to enhance road worker safety throughout New York.

9 § 5. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the  
10 contracted entity shall submit a report of its findings and recom-  
11 mendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the  
12 minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority  
13 leader of the assembly, and the commissioner of transportation. The  
14 report shall also be published on the contracted entity's public website  
15 and disseminated.

16 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.