

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4964

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 10, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. GIBBS, WALKER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, the environmental conservation law and the highway law, in relation to memorializing Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos by renaming certain spans of the Triborough bridge after such men

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby  
2 recognizes Robert F. Kennedy by naming after him a span of the Tribor-  
3 ough bridge, as a tribute befitting his historic contribution to the  
4 state of New York and the nation. Robert F. Kennedy represented the  
5 state of New York in the United States Senate with great distinction,  
6 from 1965 until his untimely death in 1968, working tirelessly to  
7 improve the lives of New Yorkers, fighting poverty and advancing the  
8 civil rights movement. The state of New York and our entire nation were  
9 further enriched by Robert F. Kennedy's prior service as the sixty-  
10 fourth Attorney General of the United States, and trusted advisor to the  
11 President. Common throughout his many works was an effort to bridge the  
12 gaps among persons of diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds.  
13 Accordingly, the legislature hereby names the span of the Triborough  
14 bridge which stretches over the East river from the borough of Queens to  
15 Ward's Island the Robert F. Kennedy bridge.

16 The legislature further recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in  
17 this fifty-fourth year following his tragic assassination, by naming  
18 after him a span of the Triborough bridge, as a tribute befitting his  
19 historic contributions to the nation. Dr. King worked tirelessly to  
20 improve the lives of the citizens of this country, fighting segregation  
21 and discrimination through non-violent protest and advancing the civil  
22 rights movement, until his untimely death in 1968. The state of New York  
23 and our entire nation were enriched by Dr. King's dedication, example

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

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1 and sacrifices. Common throughout his many works was an effort to bridge  
2 the gaps among persons of diverse racial, ethnic and economic back-  
3 grounds. Accordingly, the legislature hereby names the span of the  
4 Triborough bridge which stretches from Randall's Island to Manhattan the  
5 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. bridge.

6 The legislature also hereby recognizes Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, by  
7 naming after him a span of the Triborough bridge, as a tribute befitting  
8 his historic contributions to the nation of Puerto Rico. Dr. Albizu  
9 Campos, the most prominent Puerto Rican political figure of the 20th  
10 century, was instrumental in Puerto Rico's fight for independence until  
11 his death in 1965. Accordingly, the legislature hereby names the span of  
12 the Triborough bridge which stretches from Randall's Island to the Bronx  
13 the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos bridge.

14 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section 553 of the public  
15 authorities law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) [~~a bridge~~] three bridges heretofore constructed[~~, known as Robert~~  
18 ~~F. Kennedy bridge,~~] over the East river from the borough of Queens to  
19 [~~the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, over and across~~] Ward's island  
20 [~~and Randall's island in said river~~], shall be known as the Robert F.  
21 Kennedy bridge; over the East river from Randall's island in said river  
22 to the borough of Manhattan, shall be known as the Dr. Martin Luther  
23 King, Jr. bridge; and over the Bronx Kill from Randall's island in said  
24 river to the borough of the Bronx, shall be known as the Dr. Pedro Albi-  
25 zu Campos bridge, together with such incidental bridges and structures  
26 as shall be necessary or convenient in order to give access from the  
27 [~~bridge~~] bridges to both of said islands, together with approaches to  
28 said bridges (herein collectively referred to as the "[~~Robert F. Kenne-~~  
29 ~~dy~~] Tribute bridge project"); and

30 § 3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 10 of section 553 of the  
31 public authorities law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008,  
32 are amended to read as follows:

33 (a) in the case of the [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] Tribute bridge project and  
34 the Whitestone bridge project to pay to the city not exceeding thirty-  
35 five per centum of the cost (including awards for damages and expenses)  
36 of the acquisition of land for the widening of existing roads, streets,  
37 parkways or avenues and for new roads, streets, parkways or avenues,  
38 connecting with the approaches.

39 (b) to purchase from the persons, partnerships, associations or corpo-  
40 rations who were the owners of any land acquired for the widening of  
41 existing roads, streets, parkways or avenues or for new roads, streets,  
42 parkways or avenues connecting with the approaches or of any interest in  
43 such land at the date title to such land was vested in the city in any  
44 proceeding heretofore or hereafter instituted for the acquisition there-  
45 of by condemnation, or from their successors in interest or legal repre-  
46 sentatives, their right, title, interest and/or claim in and to the  
47 award or awards or any part thereof to be made in such proceeding after  
48 the date of such purchase, and to take an assignment thereof to the  
49 authority, provided, however, that in the case of the [~~Robert F. Kenne-~~  
50 ~~dy~~] Tribute bridge project and the Whitestone bridge project the aggre-  
51 gate amount expended by the authority on account of all such purchases  
52 together with the aggregate amount paid to the city in accordance with  
53 paragraph (a) of this subdivision, shall not exceed thirty-five per  
54 centum of the cost (including awards for damages and expenses) of the  
55 acquisition of land for the widening of existing roads, streets, park-

1 ways or avenues, and for new roads, streets, parkways or avenues,  
2 connecting with the approaches,

3 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 563 of the public authorities law, as  
4 amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 2. The state of New York does covenant and agree with the holders of  
7 any bonds issued after January first, nineteen hundred forty that no  
8 tunnel, bridge, parkway, causeway, street, road, highway or other  
9 connection for vehicular traffic (other than one of the projects), which  
10 will be competitive with the [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] Tribute bridge project  
11 or the Whitestone bridge project or the Throgs Neck bridge project or  
12 the Marine parkway bridge project or the Cross Bay parkway bridge  
13 project will be constructed or maintained until the bonds together with  
14 interest thereon, interest on any unpaid installments of interest, and  
15 all costs and expenses in connection with any action or proceedings by  
16 or on behalf of the bondholders, are fully met and discharged; provided  
17 that a tunnel, bridge, parkway, causeway, street, road, highway or other  
18 connection for vehicular traffic shall be considered as competitive with  
19 the [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] Tribute bridge project or Whitestone bridge  
20 project or the Throgs Neck bridge project only if it shall form a  
21 connection for vehicular traffic over, under, or across the East river  
22 north of an extension to the east of the center line of Seventy-third  
23 street in the borough of Manhattan, and shall be considered as compet-  
24 itive with the Marine parkway bridge project or Cross Bay parkway bridge  
25 project only if such tunnel, bridge, parkway, causeway, street, road,  
26 highway or other connection for vehicular traffic shall form a  
27 connection for vehicular traffic with Rockaway peninsula across any part  
28 of the waters of Jamaica bay or Rockaway inlet west of seventy-three  
29 degrees, forty-six minutes of west longitude. The covenant herein  
30 contained restricting competitive traffic connections with any project  
31 or projects shall be only for the benefit of the holders of bonds  
32 secured in whole or in part by the pledge of the revenues of such  
33 project or projects. All covenants of the state made with the holders  
34 of bonds issued before January first, nineteen hundred and forty, are  
35 hereby confirmed and shall not be affected hereby.

36 § 5. Subdivision 4 of section 13-0341 of the environmental conserva-  
37 tion law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008, is amended to  
38 read as follows:

39 4. In the Harlem River and the East River east of the Robert F. Kenne-  
40 dy [~~Bridge~~], Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos  
41 Bridges and in Long Island Sound west of a line drawn from Hewlett's  
42 (King's) Point to the north end of Hart Island, thence to the south end  
43 of Glen Island, and in their adjacent bays, coves, creeks and confluent  
44 waters.

45 § 6. Subdivision 3 of section 13-0343 of the environmental conserva-  
46 tion law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008, is amended to  
47 read as follows:

48 3. In the Harlem River and the East River east of the Robert F. Kenne-  
49 dy [~~Bridge~~], Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos  
50 Bridges and in Long Island Sound west of a line drawn from Hewlett's  
51 (King's) Point to the north end of Hart Island, thence to the south end  
52 of Glen Island, and in their adjacent bays, coves, creeks and confluent  
53 waters, only such nets as are used to take lobsters or crabs may be  
54 used.

1 § 7. Subdivision 6 of section 13-0347 of the environmental conserva-  
2 tion law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws of 2008, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 6. In all waters from the Robert F. Kennedy [~~bridge~~], Dr. Martin Luth-  
5 er King, Jr. and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Bridges west through the East  
6 River, Harlem River and those portions of the Hudson River south of the  
7 George Washington bridge to a line drawn from Rockaway Point to Romer  
8 Shoals lighthouse, no person shall use a net to take fish, except that  
9 landing nets and nets of not more than 10 feet in length, operated by  
10 hand, may be used to take bait and shrimp, and cast nets may be used to  
11 take Atlantic menhaden and mullets as provided in subdivision one of  
12 section 13-0343 of this title.

13 § 8. The paragraph relating to interstate route connection 512 of  
14 section 340-a of the highway law, as amended by chapter 288 of the laws  
15 of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

16 Interstate Route Connection 512. Staten Island expressway from  
17 Goethals bridge approach to Verrazzano-Narrows bridge approach, Brook-  
18 lyn-Queens expressway from Verrazzano-Narrows bridge approach to Grand  
19 Central parkway, Grand Central parkway from Brooklyn-Queens expressway  
20 to [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos bridge approach,  
21 Major Deegan expressway from Robert F. Kennedy bridge approach to the  
22 Westchester county line connecting with interstate route 502.

23 § 9. The paragraph relating to interstate route connection 516 of  
24 section 340-a of the highway law, as amended by chapter 453 of the laws  
25 of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

26 Interstate Route Connection 516. Bruckner expressway from [~~Robert F.~~  
27 ~~Kennedy~~] Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos bridge approach to Cross-Bronx expres-  
28 way.

29 § 10. Section 349-f of the highway law, as amended by chapter 288 of  
30 the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

31 § 349-f. New York city routes. The following existing or proposed main  
32 routes or thoroughfares, are designated herein, as aforesaid, viz.:

33 New England thruway from the Westchester county line to Bruckner  
34 expressway; Bruckner expressway from New England thruway to [~~Robert F.~~  
35 ~~Kennedy~~] Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos bridge approach; Hutchinson river park-  
36 way from the Westchester county line to the Bronx-Whitestone bridge  
37 approach; Bronx river parkway from the Westchester county line to Bruck-  
38 ner expressway; Henry Hudson parkway from the Westchester county line to  
39 Miller highway excepting the Henry Hudson bridge, provided that no  
40 portion of this route from West Seventy-second street to the Cross Bronx  
41 expressway shall be constructed or reconstructed so as to encroach in  
42 any way on or over any land mapped or used for park purposes except for  
43 such temporary encroachment of no more than ten feet in width from  
44 seventy-third street to seventy-sixth street as may be essential during  
45 and for the purpose of reconstruction or repair of the existing roadway  
46 following which there shall be full restoration of park land; Major  
47 Deegan expressway from the [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos  
48 bridge to Central Park avenue at the Westchester county line together  
49 with a connection to Broadway and along Broadway to Manhattan college  
50 parkway; Cross Bronx expressway from George Washington bridge approach  
51 to Throgs Neck bridge; Throgs Neck expressway from Bruckner expressway  
52 to Throgs Neck bridge; Arthur V. Sheridan expressway from Cross-Bronx  
53 expressway to Bruckner expressway; Mosholu parkway from Henry Hudson  
54 parkway to Bronx river parkway; Bronx and Pelham parkway from Bronx  
55 river parkway to New England thruway; Boston road from Bronx and Pelham  
56 parkway to New England thruway; Miller highway from Henry Hudson parkway

1 to the Hugh L. Carey tunnel; and from Hugh L. Carey tunnel to Brooklyn-  
2 Queens expressway; Franklin D. Roosevelt drive from the Hugh L. Carey  
3 tunnel to [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. bridge  
4 approach; Harlem river drive from [~~Robert F. Kennedy~~] the Dr. Martin  
5 Luther King, Jr. bridge approach to George Washington bridge approach;  
6 Belt parkway including Gowanus parkway to Third avenue and Sixtieth  
7 street, Leif Erikson drive to Knapp street, Shore parkway, Belt parkway,  
8 Southern parkway and Cross Island parkway from Hugh L. Carey tunnel to  
9 Bronx-Whitestone bridge approach; Nassau expressway from Southern park-  
10 way to the Nassau county line; Brooklyn-Queens expressway from Gowanus  
11 expressway to Grand Central parkway; Prospect expressway from Gowanus  
12 expressway to Ocean parkway; Ocean parkway from Prospect expressway to  
13 Shore parkway; Interborough parkway from Grand Central Parkway to Belt  
14 parkway; Gowanus expressway from the Verrazzano-Narrows bridge to Third  
15 avenue at Gowanus parkway; Third Avenue from Gowanus expressway to  
16 Hamilton avenue; Hamilton Avenue from Third Avenue to Hugh L. Carey  
17 tunnel; Queens boulevard from Queensborough bridge approach to Van Wyck  
18 expressway; Van Wyck expressway from Whitestone expressway, including a  
19 connection to Grand Central parkway, to John F. Kennedy international  
20 airport; Woodhaven boulevard from Queens boulevard to Cross Bay parkway  
21 bridge northerly approach; Cross Bay parkway from Cross Bay bridge  
22 southerly approach to [~~Shore~~] Shore Front parkway; Shore Front parkway  
23 from Cross Bay parkway generally along the shore line of the Atlantic  
24 ocean to the Nassau expressway at the Nassau county line; Queens-Midtown  
25 expressway from Queens-Midtown tunnel approach to Queens Boulevard;  
26 Horace Harding expressway from Queens Boulevard to the Nassau county  
27 line; a connection between Brooklyn-Queens expressway and Northern  
28 boulevard in the vicinity of Grand Central parkway; Grand Central park-  
29 way from Robert F. Kennedy bridge approach to Nassau county line; White-  
30 stone expressway from Bronx-Whitestone bridge approach to Van Wyck  
31 expressway and continuing to Grand Central parkway; Clearview expressway  
32 from Throgs Neck bridge to Nassau expressway; Richmond parkway from  
33 Staten Island expressway to Outerbridge crossing approach; Staten Island  
34 expressway from Goethals bridge to the Verrazzano-Narrows bridge with a  
35 connection to Bayonne bridge; Willowbrook parkway from Staten Island  
36 expressway to Great Kills park; West Shore expressway from Staten Island  
37 expressway to Outerbridge crossing; Shore Front drive northerly from the  
38 terminus of West Shore expressway at Staten Island expressway, thence  
39 generally along the shore lines of Kill Van Kull, the Narrows, Lower New  
40 York bay and Raritan bay to the approach to Outerbridge crossing.

41 § 11. Terms occurring in laws, regulations, contracts and other docu-  
42 ments. Whenever Triborough bridge is referred to or designated in any  
43 law, regulation, contract or document, such reference or designation  
44 shall be deemed to refer to the Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther  
45 King, Jr. and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos bridges, collectively, and no  
46 such laws, regulations, contracts or other documents shall be thereby  
47 impaired in any way.

48 § 12. The New York state department of transportation, the New York  
49 city department of transportation and the Triborough bridge and tunnel  
50 authority shall provide for the installation and maintenance of adequate  
51 signage in conformance with paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section  
52 553 of the public authorities law, as amended by section two of this act  
53 within such time and in such manner as they shall deem appropriate.

54 § 13. This act shall take effect immediately.