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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 102

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 17 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ENTRANCE PERMITS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1           Section 1. Amend § 146, Title 17 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline and deletions  
2 as shown by strike through as follows:

3           § 146. Access to state-maintained highways.

4           (a) The Department is authorized to adopt standards and regulations for the location, design, construction,  
5 reconstruction, maintenance, use and control of vehicular and pedestrian access to and from any state-maintained highway  
6 in order to protect public safety, to maintain smooth traffic flow, to maintain highway right-of-way drainage, to regulate  
7 drainage from property leading into or carried by the highway drainage system and any other public purpose, as determined  
8 by the Department.

9           (b) No person, firm, or corporation ~~or the like~~ shall construct, open, reconstruct, maintain, modify or use any  
10 crossing or entrance onto a state-maintained highway, street or road, including any drainage modifications leading into or  
11 carried by the highway drainage system, without first having complied with standards and regulations adopted by the  
12 Department and having obtained a permit issued by the Department.

13           (c) Any person, firm, or corporation ~~or the like~~ who constructs, opens, reconstructs, maintains, uses or modifies an  
14 entrance onto or an exit from a state-maintained highway, street or road without first having complied with standards and  
15 regulations adopted by the Department and having obtained a permit from the Department for such entrance or exit shall be  
16 punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense, and a further sum in an amount equal to the  
17 amount fined for the initial offense for each and every day such violation exists.

18           (d) For purposes of this section, whenever the use to which a property is being put is changed such that there will  
19 be a significant alteration in the character, flow or volume of traffic, as determined within the sole discretion of the  
20 Department, a new permit shall be required.

21 (e) The Justice of the Peace Courts shall have jurisdiction over violations of this section.

22 (f) In addition to whatever legal or equitable remedies are available, the Department may install barricades across  
23 or remove any entrance or exit constructed, opened, reconstructed, maintained, modified or used in violation of this section  
24 and the standards or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, at the expense of the property owner.

25 (g) (1) An applicant who has submitted an accepted entrance plan for review and obtained an erosion and sediment  
26 control permit may request, and the Department must issue within 10 business days, a temporary entrance permit to  
27 perform on-site permitted construction activities for any commercial or economic development project. An applicant who  
28 obtains such a temporary entrance permit and performs such on-site permitted construction activities does so at its own risk  
29 and the State, including all of its agencies, shall not be responsible for any harm to the applicant including denial of the  
30 project, required modifications to plans or work, and permits not being issued. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued  
31 prior to entrance plan approval and entrance construction being substantially complete.

32 (2) For purposes of this subsection, "economic development project" means a development project creating full-time jobs,  
33 that is consistent with an adopted local government comprehensive plan and local land development and zoning ordinances.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act expedites the issuance of a temporary entrance permit for commercial and economic development projects. The Act also makes technical changes to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.