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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- GREEN ECONOMY ROUNDTABLE

Introduced By: Representatives A Rice, Walsh, Handy, Gallison, and Malik

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 84

4 GREEN ECONOMY ROUNDTABLE

5 **23-84-1. Short title.** -- This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Green  
6 Economy Roundtable".

7 **23-84-2. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the  
8 following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 (1) "Energy improvement project" means:

10 (i) A project to improve energy efficiency in a building or facility, including the design,  
11 acquisition, installation, construction, and commissioning of equipment or improvements to a  
12 building or facility owned or operated by a state agency, and training of building or facility staff  
13 necessary to properly operate and maintain the equipment or improvements; or

14 (ii) A project to design, acquire, install, construct, and commission equipment or products  
15 to utilize solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, or other alternative energy sources in heating,  
16 cooling, or providing electricity for a building or facility owned or operated by a state agency and  
17 training of building or facility staff necessary to properly operate and maintain the equipment or  
18 improvements.

19 (2) "Energy project study" means a technical and financial study of one or more energy

1 improvement projects, including:

2 (i) An analysis of historical energy consumption and cost data;

3 (ii) A description of existing equipment, structural elements, operating characteristics,  
4 and other conditions affecting energy use;

5 (iii) A description of the proposed energy improvement projects;

6 (iv) A detailed budget for the proposed project; and

7 (v) Calculations sufficient to demonstrate the expected energy and operational cost  
8 savings and reduction in fossil-fuel use.

9 (3) "Financing agreement" means a tax-exempt lease-purchase agreement entered into by  
10 the director of administration and a financial institution under a standard project financing  
11 agreement.

12 (4) "Green economy" means products, processes, methods, technologies, or services  
13 intended to do one or more of the following:

14 (i) Increase the use of energy from renewable sources;

15 (ii) Achieve the statewide energy-savings;

16 (iii) Achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction;

17 (iv) Mitigation of the greenhouse gas emissions through, but not limited to, carbon  
18 capture, storage, or sequestration;

19 (v) Monitor, protect, restore, and preserve the quality of surface waters; or

20 (vi) Expand the use of biofuels, including by expanding the feasibility or reducing the  
21 cost of producing biofuels or the types of equipment, machinery, and vehicles that can use  
22 biofuels. "Green economy" includes strategies that reduce carbon emissions, such as utilizing  
23 existing buildings and other infrastructure, and utilizing mass transit or otherwise reducing  
24 commuting for employees.

25 (5) "State agency" means any office, board, commission, authority, department, or other  
26 agency of state government.

27 **23-84-3. Composition of the green economy roundtable.** -- (a) The green economy  
28 roundtable is created to advise and assist the governor and general assembly regarding activities  
29 to advance the state's economy, and to develop a statewide action plan as provided under section  
30 23-84-4. The task force shall be appointed no later than July 30, 2010, and consist of:

31 (1) The governor of the State of Rhode Island;

32 (2) Three (3) members of the house of representatives, including one member of the  
33 minority party appointed by the speaker and the speaker her/himself;

34 (3) Three (3) members of the senate, including one member of the minority party and the

1 senate President her/himself;

2 (4) Six (6) representatives from state agencies and institutions appointed by the governor,  
3 including one member from the economic development corporation, one member from the  
4 department of labor and training, one member from the office of energy resources, one member  
5 from the University of Rhode Island, one member from the Clean Water Finance Agency, and  
6 one member from the department of environmental management;

7 (5) Three (3) public members appointed by the governor, including one member  
8 representing the manufacturing industry, one member representing a statewide organization  
9 dedicated to commerce, and one member representing a statewide organization dedicated to  
10 agriculture;

11 (6) Four (4) public members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives,  
12 including one member representing labor, one member representing a statewide environmental  
13 organization, one member representing financial institutions or venture capital, and one member  
14 from a local economic development authority from Rhode Island, and;

15 (7) Four (4) public members appointed by the senate president, including one member  
16 from a local economic development authority from the metropolitan area, one member from a  
17 statewide organization dedicated to furthering the green economy, one member from a firm  
18 currently engaged in green manufacturing, and one local workforce development representative  
19 from an area that has experienced significant manufacturing job loss.

20 **23-84-4. Duties of the green economy roundtable.** -- (a) By January 15, 2011, the green  
21 economy roundtable shall develop and present to the general assembly and to the governor a  
22 statewide action plan to optimize the growth of the green economy.

23 (b) The plan shall include necessary draft legislation, budget requests and recommended  
24 financing agreements and may include administrative actions of governmental entities,  
25 collaborative actions, and actions of individuals and individual organizations. The plan must be  
26 developed following the analysis described in this paragraph and must be based on the analysis.  
27 The analysis must include:

28 (1) A market analysis of the green business opportunities and needs created by the laws  
29 enumerated in subsection (a), including local, state, national, and international markets;

30 (2) An analysis of the labor force needs related to the market analysis opportunities,  
31 including educational, training, and retraining needs; and

32 (3) An inventory of the current labor and business assets available to respond to the  
33 opportunities.

34 (4) An inventory of "energy improvement" projects within this state including "energy

1 [project studies" for recommended projects.](#)

2 **23-84-5. Expiration.** -- [The task force shall expire on July 30, 2011.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall expire on July 30, 2011.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- GREEN ECONOMY ROUNDTABLE

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1           This act would create the Green Economy Roundtable charged with identifying various  
2 opportunities associated with the green economy.

3           This act would take effect upon passage and would expire on July 30, 2011.

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