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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ENERGY RESOURCES

Introduced By: Representative Samuel A. Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

(Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-140-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-140 entitled "Rhode  
2 Island Energy Resources Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-140-3. Purposes.** -- The purposes of the office shall be to:

4 (1) Develop and put into effect plans and programs to promote, encourage, and assist the  
5 provision of energy resources for Rhode Island in a manner that enhances economic well-being,  
6 social equity, and environmental quality;

7 (2) Monitor, forecast, and report on energy use, energy prices, and energy demand and  
8 supply forecasts, and make findings and recommendations with regard to energy supply diversity,  
9 reliability, and procurement, including least-cost procurement;

10 (3) Develop and to put into effect plans and programs to promote, encourage and assist  
11 the efficient and productive use of energy resources in Rhode Island, and to coordinate energy  
12 programs for natural gas, electricity, and heating oil to maximize the aggregate benefits of  
13 conservation and efficiency of investments;

14 (4) Monitor and report technological developments that may result in new and/or  
15 improved sources of energy supply, increased energy efficiency, and reduced environmental  
16 impacts from energy supply, transmission and distribution;

17 (5) Administer the programs, duties, and responsibilities heretofore exercised by the state  
18 energy office, except as these may be assigned by executive order or the general laws to other  
19 departments and agencies of state government;

1           (6) Develop, recommend and, as appropriate, implement integrated and/or  
2 comprehensive strategies, including at regional and federal levels, to secure Rhode Island's  
3 interest in energy resources, their supply and efficient use, and as necessary to interact with  
4 persons, private sector, non-profit, regional, federal entities and departments and agencies of  
5 other states to effectuate this purpose;

6           (7) Cooperate with agencies, departments, corporations, and entities of the state and of  
7 political subdivisions of the state in achieving its purposes;

8           (8) Cooperate with and assist the state planning council and the division of state planning  
9 in developing, maintaining, and implementing state guide plan elements pertaining to energy and  
10 renewable energy;

11           (9) Coordinate the energy efficiency, renewable energy, least cost procurement, and  
12 systems reliability plans and programs with the energy efficiency resource management council  
13 and the renewable energy coordinating board;

14           (10) Participate in, monitor implementation of, and provide technical assistance for the  
15 low-income home energy assistance program enhancement plan established pursuant to section  
16 39-1-27.12;

17           (11) Participate in and monitor the distributed generation standard contracts program  
18 pursuant to chapter 39-26-2;

19           (12) Coordinate opportunities with and enter into contracts and/or agreements with the  
20 economic development corporation associated with the energy efficiency, least-cost procurement,  
21 system reliability, and renewable energy fund programs;

22           (13) Provide support and information to the division of planning and the state planning  
23 council in development of a ten (10) year Rhode Island Energy Guide Plan, which shall be  
24 reviewed and amended if necessary every five (5) years;

25           (14) Provide funding support if necessary to the renewable energy coordinating board  
26 and/or the advisory council to carry out the objectives pursuant to chapter 42-140-3;

27           (15) Advise and provide technical assistance to state and federally funded energy  
28 program to support:

29           (i) The federal low-income home energy assistance program which provides heating  
30 assistance to eligible low-income persons and any state funded or privately funded heating  
31 assistance program of a similar nature assigned to it for administration;

32           (ii) The weatherization assistance program which offers home weatherization grants and  
33 heating system upgrades to eligible persons of low-income;

34           (iii) The emergency fuel program which provides oil deliveries to families experiencing

1 a heating emergency;

2 (iv) The energy conservation program, which offers service and programs to all sectors;  
3 and

4 (v) [Deleted by P.L. 2008, ch. 228, section 2, and P.L. 2008, ch. 422, section 2.]

5 (16) Advise the economic development corporation in the development of standards and  
6 rules for the solicitation and award of renewable energy program investment funds in accordance  
7 with section 42-64-13.2;

8 (17) Develop, recommend, and evaluate energy programs for state facilities and  
9 operations in order to achieve and demonstrate the benefits of energy-efficiency, diversification  
10 of energy supplies, energy conservation, and demand management;

11 (18) Advise the governor and the general assembly with regard to energy resources and  
12 all matters relevant to achieving the purposes of the office; and

13 (19) Collect price, inventory and product delivery dates, including amounts and types of  
14 product sold, and other information which is necessary and material regarding petroleum  
15 products, natural gas and other fuels available for supply within the state from wholesalers and  
16 resellers of petroleum products, natural gas and suppliers of other fuels, doing business in the  
17 state. Except as herein provided, all energy information collected by the office under this section  
18 shall be maintained for the sole and confidential use of the state its agencies and offices. Such  
19 information shall not be deemed public record as defined in subdivision 38-2-2(4); provided  
20 however, that aggregates of such information may be prepared and such aggregates shall be  
21 public records. Information collected under this section may be shared with the energy offices of  
22 other states which afford such information similar protection from public disclosure. All  
23 wholesalers, resellers and end-users of petroleum products and other fuels doing business in the  
24 state with a total storage capacity of over fifty thousand (50,000) gallons shall provide  
25 information to the office upon request and in such form as the office shall require.

26 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ENERGY RESOURCES

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1           This act would add a responsibility to the office of energy resources to collect all energy  
2 information regarding petroleum products, natural gas, and other fuels including price, inventory,  
3 and product delivery dates, amounts, and types of product sold, and other pertinent information.  
4 The information collected will not be public information unless prepared for that purpose. The  
5 information collected may be shared with energy offices of other states provided they have  
6 suitable safeguards against public dissemination.

7           This act shall take effect upon passage.

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