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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

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Pearson, Bates, Paiva Weed, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 155

4 DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DATA AND INFORMATION

5 **42-155-1. Division of economic data and information. --** (a) There is hereby  
6 established within the department of administration a division of economic data and information.

7 (b) The head of the division shall be the director of economic data and information.

8 (c) The division shall employ such personnel and contract for such consulting services as  
9 may be required to perform the powers and duties conferred upon the division pursuant to section  
10 42-155-3.

11 **42-155-2. Economic data and information advisory council. --** An economic data and  
12 information advisory council shall be established by the division and shall be comprised of seven  
13 (7) members as follows: The director of the division of economic data and information; The  
14 director of the department of revenue, or designee; The director of the economic development  
15 corporation, or designee; and Four (4) public members, appointed by the governor, who shall be  
16 selected based upon specific experience in economics, research, data analysis, and related  
17 background and training. In making the appointments, the governor may seek recommendations  
18 from both public and private institutions of higher education and other organizations within the  
19 state.

1 (b) Purpose. - The purpose of the council shall be to serve as an advisory body to the  
2 director on all matters pertaining to the responsibilities and duties of the division.

3 (c) The council shall meet no less than quarterly with the economic development  
4 corporation board, or a subcommittee of that board.

5 (d) All public members shall serve for a term of three (3) years and/or until their  
6 successors are appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself.  
7 A vacancy other than by expiration shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment  
8 but only for the unexpired portion of the term.

9 (e) The members of the council shall serve without compensation.

10 (f) In carrying out the responsibility under this order, the council may: (1) Accept grant  
11 funds and in-kind contributions from governmental and private entities; (2) Hold hearings; (3)  
12 Invite experts and other witnesses to submit testimony; and (4) Engage any consultants or expert  
13 witnesses that it deems necessary to implement its responsibilities; provided, however, that to the  
14 maximum extent possible, the board shall utilize staff from state agencies.

15 (g) In addition to any other applicable law, rules or regulations, the council shall be  
16 subject to the provisions of chapter 42-46 ("Open Meetings") and chapter 38-2 ("Access to Public  
17 Records").

18 (h) The council shall be co-chaired by the director and one other member.

19 **42-155-3. Powers and duties of the division. --** (a) The division of economic data and  
20 information shall have the following powers and duties:

21 (1) Serve as collection point of data and information on the Rhode Island economy;

22 (2) Prepare economic policy analysis on specific issues such as tax credits, tax  
23 expenditures and other related matters;

24 (3) Publish reports and analysis as it sees fit to help inform the state of the effect of  
25 economic activity and policy;

26 (4) Establish with the department of administration a central repository of economic  
27 information;

28 (5) Prepare and annually update a state economic data book, which shall contain a  
29 statistical and economic profile of the state and its region;

30 (6) Every two (2) years, prepare a business climate profile for the state which shall  
31 compare the statistical and economic profile of the state with its neighbors and all fifty states;

32 (7) Review and advise on the strategic economic development plan for the state of Rhode  
33 Island established pursuant to title 42;

34 (8) Utilize objective data to evaluate economic development policy goals, resource use

1 and outcome evaluation and to perform short and long-term policy planning and development;  
2 and

3 (9) At the direction of the governor, conduct independent reviews of state-administered  
4 economic development programs, policies and related agency actions and activities and assist the  
5 department directors in identifying strategies to address any issues or areas of concern that may  
6 emerge therefrom. The department directors shall provide any information and assistance deemed  
7 necessary by the division when undertaking such independent reviews.

8 (b) All departments, offices, boards and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the  
9 division of economic data and information and furnish such administrative and staff support,  
10 advice, information, documentary and otherwise, data and data analysis as may be necessary or  
11 desirable.

12 **42-155-4. Powers and duties of the director of the division of economic data and**  
13 **information. -- (a) The director of economic data and information is hereby authorized and**  
14 **empowered to make rules and regulations as the director may deem necessary for the proper**  
15 **administration and enforcement of the laws of Rhode Island for the division of economic data and**  
16 **information.**

17 (b) The director shall meet no less than quarterly with the director of the economic  
18 development corporation to aid in, and inform, the implementation of the economic development  
19 plan established pursuant to the provisions of title 42 and shall publish a quarterly report  
20 regarding implementation of the economic development plan and any other information as the  
21 director shall deem appropriate.

22 (c) The director is empowered to establish an economic data and information advisory  
23 council pursuant to the provisions of section 42-155-2.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

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1           This act would establish a division of economic data and information within the  
2 department of administration.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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