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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE RECYCLING OF ORGANIC MATERIALS BY CERTAIN FOOD  
WHOLESALEERS, MANUFACTURERS, SUPERMARKETS, AND CONFERENCE CENTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Valencia, Tanzi, O`Grady, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 13, 2014

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

(Environmental Management)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-18.9-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-18.9 entitled "Refuse  
2 Disposal" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-18.9-7. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following terms shall, where the  
4 context permits, be construed as follows:

5 (1) "Beneficial reuse material" means a processed, nonhazardous, solid waste not already  
6 defined as recyclable material by this chapter and by regulations of the Rhode Island department  
7 of environmental management that the director has determined can be reused in an  
8 environmentally beneficial manner without creating potential threats to public health, safety,  
9 welfare or the environment or creating potential nuisance conditions.

10 (2) "Beneficial use determination" (BUD) means the case-by-case process by which the  
11 director evaluates a proposal to use a specific solid waste as a beneficial reuse material for a  
12 specific purpose at a specific location within the host municipality.

13 (3) "Cocktailing" means the adding, combining or mixing of hazardous waste as defined  
14 in section 23-19.1-4 with construction debris and demolition debris.

15 (4) "Construction and demolition (C&D) debris" means non-hazardous solid waste  
16 resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities and structures; and  
17 uncontaminated solid waste resulting from land clearing. This waste includes, but is not limited  
18 to, wood (including painted, treated and coated wood and wood products), land clearing debris,

1 wall coverings, plaster, drywall, plumbing fixtures, non-asbestos insulation, roofing shingles and  
2 other roof coverings, glass, plastics that are not sealed in a manner that conceals other wastes,  
3 empty buckets ten (10) gallons or less in size and having no more than one inch of residue  
4 remaining on the bottom, electrical wiring and components containing no hazardous liquids, and  
5 pipe and metals that are incidental to any of the previously described waste. Solid waste that is  
6 not C&D debris (even if resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of  
7 utilities, structures and roads and land clearing) includes, but is not limited to, asbestos, waste,  
8 garbage, corrugated container board, electrical fixtures containing hazardous liquids such as  
9 fluorescent light ballasts or transformers, fluorescent lights, carpeting, furniture, appliances, tires,  
10 drums, containers greater than ten (10) gallons in size, any containers having more than one inch  
11 of residue remaining on the bottom and fuel tanks. Specifically excluded from the definition of  
12 construction and demolition debris is solid waste (including what otherwise would be  
13 construction and demolition debris) resulting from any processing technique, other than that  
14 employed at a department-approved C&D debris processing facility, that renders individual waste  
15 components unrecognizable, such as pulverizing or shredding.

16 (5) "Construction and demolition debris processing facility" means a solid waste  
17 management facility that receives and processes construction and demolition debris of more than  
18 fifty (50) tons per day. These facilities must demonstrate, through records maintained at the  
19 facility and provided to the department, that seventy-five percent (75%) of all material received  
20 by the facility is processed and removed from the site within six (6) weeks of receipt on a  
21 continuous basis, and that in no case stores material on site for over three (3) months; provided,  
22 however, these facilities do not include municipal compost facilities.

23 (6) "Construction and demolition debris separation facility" means a facility that  
24 receives, separates and or screens construction and demolition debris into its components for  
25 subsequent resale or processing which includes, but is not limited to, grinding, shredding,  
26 crushing, or landfilling at another location separate and apart from the location on which the  
27 separation occurs.

28 (7) "Director" means the director of the department of environmental management or any  
29 subordinate or subordinates to whom the director has delegated the powers and duties vested in  
30 him or her by this chapter.

31 (8) "Expansion" means any increase in volume, size, or scope, either vertically,  
32 horizontally, or otherwise; provided, however, that this section does not apply to the vertical  
33 expansion of the Charlestown Municipal landfill until the closure date of July 1, 2000.

34 (9) "Person" includes an individual, firm, partnership, association, and private or

1 municipal corporation.

2 (10) "Recyclable materials" means those materials separated from solid waste for reuse.  
3 The director of the department of environmental management through regulations shall specify  
4 those materials that are to be included within the definition of recyclables. The materials to be  
5 included may change from time to time depending upon new technologies, economic conditions,  
6 waste stream characteristics, environmental effects, or other factors.

7 (11) "Segregated solid waste" means material separated from other solid waste for reuse.

8 (12) "Solid waste" means garbage, refuse, tree waste as defined by subsection 14 of this  
9 section and other discarded solid materials generated by residential, institutional, commercial,  
10 industrial, and agricultural sources, but does not include solids or dissolved material in domestic  
11 sewage or sewage sludge or dredge material as defined in chapter 6.1 of title 46, nor does it  
12 include hazardous waste as defined in chapter 19.1 of this title, nor does it include used asphalt,  
13 concrete, or Portland concrete cement.

14 (13) "Solid waste management facility" means any plant, structure, equipment, real and  
15 personal property, except mobile equipment or incinerators with a capacity of less than one  
16 thousand pounds (1,000 lbs.) per hour, operated for the purpose of processing, treating, or  
17 disposing of solid waste but not segregated solid waste. Any solid waste management facility that  
18 stores waste materials containing gypsum on site over three (3) months must install and maintain  
19 an active gas collection system approved by the department of environment management.

20 (14) (a) "Tree Waste" means all parts of a tree including stumps, branches and logs  
21 which shall be considered solid waste for purposes of this chapter unless the tree waste meets the  
22 following criteria:

23 (1) The tree waste remains on the property where it was generated; or

24 (2) The tree waste remains in the possession of the person who generated it and is stored  
25 above the ground surface, on property that the same person controls, for purposes of recycling  
26 and reuse; or

27 (3) The tree waste, whether generated on or off-site, is being actively managed as a  
28 usable wood product such as landscape mulch, wood chips, firewood, or mulch.

29 (b) The application of the criteria set forth in this section shall not be deemed to  
30 abrogate, diminish, or impair the enforcement of the requirements established pursuant to chapter  
31 28.1 of this title or the authority of the state and/or a city or town to protect the public health,  
32 safety or welfare from a public nuisance resulting from the storage and handling of tree waste.

33 (15) "Organic waste material" means the organic material portion of the solid waste  
34 stream, including, but not limited to, food scraps, food processing residue and soiled or

1 unrecyclable paper that has been separated from nonorganic material.

2 (16) "Composting facility" means land, appurtenances, structures, or equipment where  
3 organic materials originating from another process or location that have been separated at the  
4 point or source of generation from nonorganic material are recovered using a process of  
5 accelerated biological decomposition of organic material under controlled aerobic conditions.

6 (17) "Anaerobic digestion facility" means a facility employing a closed vessel to perform  
7 a closed process of accelerated biodegradation of organic materials and/or organic solid wastes  
8 into biogas and digestate, using microorganisms under controlled conditions in the absence of  
9 oxygen.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 23-18.9 of the General Laws entitled "Refuse Disposal" is hereby  
11 amended by adding thereto the following section:

12 **23-18.9-17. Food waste ban.** – On and after January 1, 2015, each commercial food  
13 wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or  
14 conference center, banquet hall, restaurant, educational or religious institution, research  
15 institution, military installation, prison, corporation, hospital or other medical care institution, and  
16 casino shall ensure that the organic waste materials that are generated by the entity are recycled at  
17 an authorized, composting facility, or anaerobic digestion facility if:

18 (1) The organic waste generator generates not less than one hundred four (104) tons per  
19 year of organic waste material; and

20 (2) The organic waste material generator is located not more than ten (10) miles from an  
21 authorized composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility with available capacity to accept  
22 such material.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO THE RECYCLING OF ORGANIC MATERIALS BY CERTAIN FOOD  
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- 1           This act would require certain large commercial food scrap generators to divert food
- 2 residuals to composting facilities.
- 3           This act would take effect on July 1, 2014.

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