

2016 -- S 2955

=====
LC005858
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RESILIENT RHODE ISLAND
ACT OF 2014 - CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senator William J. Conley

Date Introduced: May 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-6.2-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-6.2 entitled "Resilient
2 Rhode Island Act of 2014-Climate Change Coordinating Council" is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **42-6.2-2. Purpose of the council.** -- (a) The council shall have the following duties:

5 (1) Assess, integrate, and coordinate climate change efforts throughout state agencies to
6 reduce emissions, strengthen the resilience of communities, and prepare for the effects of climate
7 change, including, but not limited to, coordinating vulnerability assessments throughout state
8 government;

9 (2) (i) No later than December 31, 2016, submit to the governor and general assembly a
10 plan that includes strategies, programs, and actions to meet targets for greenhouse gas emissions
11 reductions as follows:

12 ~~(A)~~ (A) Ten percent (10%) below 1990 levels by 2020;

13 ~~(B)~~ (B) Forty-five percent (45%) below 1990 levels by 2035;

14 ~~(C)~~ (C) Eighty percent (80%) below 1990 levels by 2050;

15 ~~(D)~~ (D) The plan shall also include procedures and metrics for periodic measurement, not
16 less frequently than once every five (5) years, of progress necessary to meet these targets and for
17 evaluating the possibility of meeting higher targets through cost-effective measures.

18 (ii) The plan shall specifically study the effectiveness of the state and/or multi-state

1 [carbon pricing program to incentivize institutions and industry to reduce carbon emissions. The](#)
2 [study shall include the effectiveness of allocating revenues generated from such carbon pricing](#)
3 [program to fund enhanced incentives to institutions and industry for targeted efficiency measures;](#)
4 [projected emissions reductions; economic impact to businesses; any economic benefits to Rhode](#)
5 [Island and impacts to the state's economic competitiveness if the program were implemented.](#)

6 (3) Advance the state's understanding of the effects of climate change including, but not
7 limited to, sea level rise, coastal and shoreline changes, severe weather events, critical
8 infrastructure vulnerability, and ecosystem, economic, and health impacts, [including the effects of](#)
9 [carbon pollution on children's health;](#)

10 (4) Identify strategies to prepare for these effects and communicate them to Rhode
11 Islanders, [including strategies that incentivize businesses, institutions and industry to adapt to](#)
12 [climate change;](#)

13 (5) Work with municipalities to support the development of sustainable and resilient
14 communities;

15 (6) Identify and leverage federal, state, and private funding opportunities for emission
16 reduction and climate change preparedness and adaption work in Rhode Island;

17 (7) Advise the governor, the general assembly, and the public on ways to ensure that
18 Rhode Island continues to be a national leader in developing and implementing strategies that
19 effectively address the challenges of climate change;

20 (8) Work with other New England states to explore areas of mutual interest to achieve
21 common goals; and

22 (9) Identify and facilitate opportunities to educate the public about climate change and
23 efforts throughout state agencies and municipalities to address climate change.

24 (b) The council is encouraged to utilize the expertise of Rhode Island universities and
25 colleges in carrying out the duties described in subsection (a) of this section, specifically to
26 ensure that the state's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change are based on the best
27 available scientific and technical information, and to optimize the contribution by the universities
28 and colleges of their expertise and experience in research, analysis, modeling, mapping,
29 applications to on-the-ground situations, technical assistance, community outreach, and public
30 education.

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

=====
LC005858
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RESILIENT RHODE ISLAND
ACT OF 2014 - CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATING COUNCIL

1 This act would direct the climate change coordinating council to study a carbon pricing
2 program, to incentivize institutions and industry to reduce carbon emissions and would make
3 several other additions to the council's responsibilities.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005858
=====