AN ACT
RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 05, 2018

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

(Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 46-23-2, 46-23-2.1 and 46-23-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-23 entitled "Coastal Resources Management Council" are hereby amended to read as follows:

46-23-2. Coastal resources management council created -- Appointment of members.

(a) There is hereby created the coastal resources management council. The coastal resources management council shall consist of ten (10) members. Nine (9) members shall be appointed by the governor, with advice and consent of the senate, and one member shall serve ex officio. All current appointments to the coastal resources management council made by the governor with advice and consent of the senate are hereby validated and ratified and those appointees shall serve for the remainder of their term.

(1) The coastal resources management council shall consist of sixteen (16) members, two of whom shall be members of the house of representatives, at least one of the members shall represent a coastal municipality, appointed by the speaker, two (2) of whom shall be members of the senate, each of whom shall represent a coastal municipality, appointed by the president of the senate, two (2) of whom shall be from the general public, appointed by the governor, with advice and consent of the senate, for a term of two (2) years, two (2) of whom shall be from a coastal municipality, appointed by the speaker of the house for a term of three (3) years.

(2) In addition, four (4) Six (6) of the members shall be appointed or elected officials
of local government: appointed by the governor, one three (3) of whom shall be from appointed or elected officials in a municipality of less fewer than twenty-five thousand (25,000) in population, appointed to serve until January 31, 1972, one three (3) of whom shall be from appointed or elected officials in a coastal municipality of more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) in population appointed to serve until January 31, 1973, and one of whom shall be from a coastal municipality of less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) population appointed to serve until January 31, 1974, and one of whom shall be from a coastal community of more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) population appointed to serve until January 31, 1975, the populations are to be determined by the latest federal census; all members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified; during the month of January, the governor shall appoint a member to succeed the member whose term will then next expire for a term of four (4) years commencing on the first day of February then next following and until his or her successor is named and qualified; each Elected or appointed municipal officials shall hold seats on the council only so long as they remain in their elected or appointed office. Each municipal appointment shall cease if the appointed or elected official shall no longer hold or change the office which he or she held upon appointment, and further, each appointee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself. At least five (5) out of the six (6) appointed or elected members must be appointed or elected in a coastal municipality. When the governor submits their appointments to the senate for advice and consent, the governor shall specify the appointed or elected office that each municipal appointment holds, the population of the municipality represented, and the member being replaced.

Three (3) members shall be appointed by the governor from the public, with the advice and consent of the senate, one of whom shall serve until January 1, 1972, one of whom shall serve until January 1, 1973 and one of whom shall serve until January 1, 1974, the public members and their successors shall represent reside in a coastal community municipality.

All members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified; during the month of January, the governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a member to succeed the members whose term will then next expire for a term of three (3) years commencing on the first day of February next following and until his or her their successor is named and qualified. A member shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself for successive appointments. No more than two (2) persons on the council shall be from the same community municipality. A vacancy other than by expiration shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment but only for the unexpired portion of the term.

Appointments shall first be made by the governor, then by the president of the
(b) In addition to the foregoing voting members, the council shall may include a varying number of other members who shall may serve in an advisory capacity without the right to vote and who shall may be invited to serve by either the governor or the voting members. These advisory members shall may represent the federal agencies such as the navy, coast guard, corps of engineers, public health service, and the federal water pollution control administration, and such regional agencies as the New England river basins commission and the New England regional commission and any other group or interest not otherwise represented.

(c) There shall may be established a coastal resources advisory committee which committee, appointed by the executive director of the coastal resources management council, shall may include, but not be limited to, representation from the following groups: one of whom shall may be a representative of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography and the College of Resources Development, one of whom shall may be a representative of the Sea Grant National College Program, one of whom shall may be a representative of the army corps of engineers, one of whom shall may be a representative of the federal environmental protection agency’s Narragansett Bay laboratory, one of whom shall may be a representative of the coastal resources management council, one of whom shall may be the director of the department of environmental management; one of whom shall may be a member of the Rhode Island Marine Trade Association and one of whom shall may be a representative of a regional environmental group. The council shall have the authority to appoint such additional members to said advisory committee as is deemed necessary or advisable by the advisory committee or the council. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to advise the coastal resources management council on environmental issues relating to dredging and permitting related thereto, including, but not limited to, those issues defined in §§ 46-23-18.1 -- 46-23-18.3, inclusive.

(d) The council shall have the authority to form committees of other advisory groups as needed from both its own members and others.

46-23-2.1, Members -- Term of office -- Vacancies.

(a) The term of office of the appointed members shall be three (3) years, only so long as the members shall remain eligible to serve on the council under the appointment authority.

(b) The members are eligible to succeed themselves for successive appointments.
(c) Elected or appointed municipal officials shall hold seats on the council, only so long as they remain in their elected or appointed office. Members of the senate and house shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (b).

(d) A vacancy other than by expiration shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment but only for the unexpired portion of the term. The appointing authority shall have the power to remove its appointee for just cause.

46-23-4. Officers of the council -- Quorum and vote required for action.

The governor, upon the appointment of the appointed members of the council, shall select from the appointed members a chairperson and vice chairperson. The council shall thereupon select a secretary from among its membership or staff. The council may engage such staff, including legal counsel, as it deems necessary. A quorum shall consist of six members of the council. A majority vote of those present shall be required for action.

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

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

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RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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1 This act would amend the composition, size, and requirements of memberships on the
2 Coastal Resources Management Council.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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