RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BENEFITS TO RHODE ISLAND OF ENACTMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE LEGISLATION BASED ON GREEN NEW DEAL PRINCIPLES.

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Goldin, Murray, Euer, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

WHEREAS, Rhode Island, since the end of World War II, has typically preceded other New England states into economic recessions and followed them out of recessions, with the Great Recession of 2008 being a notable instance of this phenomenon; and

WHEREAS, The economic well-being of the people of Rhode Island has been impaired by this state's historic susceptibility to longer recessions and slower economic growth than adjoining states; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island previously had a strong industrial economy with home-grown national and world-leading manufacturers and has, since the end of World War II, suffered through periods of economic stagnation that have adversely affected the broad base of its population; and

WHEREAS, There is strong scientific and international consensus that the level of greenhouse emissions must be substantially reduced, and Rhode Island is a participant in this consensus through the enactment by this General Assembly of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014 and through executive order 17-06 by Governor Gina Raimondo embracing the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan issued by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council in December 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, chapter 6.2 of title 42 of the general laws, states
unequivocally that a “business as usual” scenario cannot continue if Rhode Island is to meet its statutory emission reduction targets for 2035 and 2050; and

WHEREAS, The national Green New Deal has been developed and presented as a bold alternative to business as usual scenarios, and includes initiatives pertaining to the following matters:

• Providing adequate resources for public efforts for climate change adaptation;
• Creation of good paying jobs that provide a family a sustaining wage;
• Securing the following for all people in the United States for generations to come:
  (i) Clean air and water;
  (ii) Climate and community resiliency;
  (iii) Healthy food;
  (iv) Access to water;
  (v) A sustainable environment; and
• Reversing deindustrialization and counteracting systemic injustice;
• Upgrading the building stock, including specifically, affordable, safe, adequate housing;
• Mitigating pollution, and cleaning up hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
• Restoring and protecting threatened, endangered and fragile ecosystems;
• Investing in research and developments and high-quality education for all people;
• Promoting local economic development and community wealth building and ownership;
• Assuring high-quality, affordable health care for all people;
• Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has proven its ability to be a top-ranked state in terms of clean energy and energy efficiency and must aim to transform and strengthen its economy to provide and maintain a good quality of life to the people of the state; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Green New Deal Research Council report their findings and recommendations regarding the potential benefits of green new deal initiatives to the Senate by May 15, 2019, and submit copies of their report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Corporations, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Labor, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Commerce, and the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the
Executive Office of Commerce shall consider and report on these findings and recommendations in the long term economic development vision and policy required by chapter 64.17 of title 42 and that the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council shall consider and report on these findings and recommendations in the next update to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan prepared pursuant to chapter 64.17 of title 42; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Her Excellency the Governor, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Commerce and the Chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council.

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