

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, There is strong scientific and international consensus that the level of
12 greenhouse emissions must be substantially reduced, and Rhode Island is a participant in this
13 consensus through the enactment by this General Assembly of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of
14 2014 and through executive order 17-06 by Governor Gina Raimondo embracing the Paris
15 Agreement; and

16 WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan issued by the Executive
17 Climate Change Coordinating Council in December 2016 in accordance with the requirements of
18 the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, chapter 6.2 of title 42 of the general laws, states

1 unequivocally that a “business as usual” scenario cannot continue if Rhode Island is to meet its
2 statutory emission reduction targets for 2035 and 2050; and

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

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

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

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

34 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the

1 Executive Office of Commerce shall consider and report on these findings and recommendations
2 in the long term economic development vision and policy required by chapter 64.17 of title 42
3 and that the chairperson of the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council shall consider
4 and report on these findings and recommendations in the next update to the greenhouse gas
5 emissions reduction plan prepared pursuant to chapter 64.17 of title 42; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Her Excellency the Governor, the Secretary of
8 the Executive Office of Commerce and the Chairperson of the Executive Climate Change
9 Coordinating Council.

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