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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

**RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND LIVABLE
HOME MODIFICATION ACT**

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Gallo, Murray, Raptakis, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: February 05, 2021

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-51 of the General Laws entitled "Governor's Commission on
2 Disabilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-51-13. Livable home modification program.**

4 (a) There is hereby established the livable home modification program for home
5 modification and accessibility enhancements to construct, retrofit and/or renovate residences to
6 allow individuals with significant disabilities to remain in community settings.

7 (b) Any eligible resident who retrofits or hires an individual to retrofit an existing
8 residence; provided that, such retrofitting meets the qualification criteria and guidelines as
9 established by the commission, shall be eligible for a livable home modification grant of fifty
10 percent (50%) of the total amount spent, not to exceed an amount annually appropriated by the
11 commission in accordance with § 35-3-24.

12 (c) The commission is authorized and directed to issue regulations regarding:

13 (1) Income eligibility and other qualifications for a grant;

14 (2) Application guidelines;

15 (3) The maximum reimbursement;

16 (4) Filing claims for reimbursement; and

17 (5) Appeal procedures for applicants who are determined to be ineligible.

18 (d) By August 15 of each year, the commission shall submit an annual report to the

1 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate and chairpersons of the
2 house and senate finance committees for the period from July 1 to June 30 on the actual:

3 (1) Number of grants issued to qualifying individuals;

4 (2) Number of applications which did not qualify;

5 (3) Total dollar amount of grants issued;

6 (4) Average dollar amount of the grants issued;

7 (5) Number of retrofits by accessibility features; and

8 (6) Prognosis for the individual if the retrofit had not been made which shall determine:

9 (i) Increased likelihood of falls and other related emergency room, hospital and/or
10 rehabilitation expenses;

11 (ii) Loss of independence; and

12 (iii) Move into a long-term care facility.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND LIVABLE
HOME MODIFICATION ACT

1 This act would establish the livable home modification program for home modification and
2 accessibility enhancements to construct, retrofit and/or renovate residences to allow individuals
3 with significant disabilities to remain in community settings, and qualify them for a grant of fifty
4 percent (50%) of the total cost.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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