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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Hull, Marcello, McNamara, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 02, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 42-11-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-11 entitled  
2 "Department of Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 3 **42-11-10. Statewide planning program.** -- (a) Findings. - The general assembly finds  
4 that the people of this state have a fundamental interest in the orderly development of the state;  
5 the state has a positive interest and demonstrated need for establishment of a comprehensive  
6 strategic state planning process and the preparation, maintenance, and implementation of plans  
7 for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; the continued growth and  
8 development of the state presents problems that cannot be met by the cities and towns  
9 individually and that require effective planning by the state; and state and local plans and  
10 programs must be properly coordinated with the planning requirements and programs of the  
11 federal government.
- 12 (b) Establishment of statewide planning program. - (1) A statewide planning program is  
13 hereby established to prepare, adopt, and amend strategic plans for the physical, economic, and  
14 social development of the state and to recommend these to the governor, the general assembly,  
15 and all others concerned.
- 16 (2) All strategic planning, as defined in subsection (c) of this section, undertaken by all  
17 departments and agencies of the executive branch unless specifically exempted, shall be  
18 conducted by or under the supervision of the statewide planning program. The statewide planning

1 program shall consist of a state planning council, and the division of planning, which shall be a  
2 division within the department of administration.

3 (c) Strategic planning. - Strategic planning includes the following activities:

4 (1) Establishing or identifying general goals.

5 (2) Refining or detailing these goals and identifying relationships between them.

6 (3) Formulating, testing, and selecting policies and standards that will achieve desired  
7 objectives.

8 (4) Preparing long-range or system plans or comprehensive programs that carry out the  
9 policies and set time schedules, performance measures, and targets.

10 (5) Preparing functional short-range plans or programs that are consistent with  
11 established or desired goals, objectives, and policies, and with long-range or system plans or  
12 comprehensive programs where applicable, and that establish measurable intermediate steps  
13 toward their accomplishment of the goals, objectives, policies, and/or long-range system plans.

14 (6) Monitoring the planning of specific projects and designing of specific programs of  
15 short duration by the operating departments, other agencies of the executive branch, and political  
16 subdivisions of the state to insure that these are consistent with and carry out the intent of  
17 applicable strategic plans.

18 (7) Reviewing the execution of strategic plans and the results obtained and making  
19 revisions necessary to achieve established goals.

20 (d) State guide plan. - Components of strategic plans prepared and adopted in accordance  
21 with this section may be designated as elements of the state guide plan. The state guide plan shall  
22 be comprised of functional elements or plans dealing with land use; physical development and  
23 environmental concerns; economic development; housing production; energy supply, including  
24 the development of renewable energy resources in Rhode Island, and energy access, use, and  
25 conservation; human services; and other factors necessary to accomplish the objective of this  
26 section. The state guide plan shall be a means for centralizing, integrating, and monitoring long-  
27 range goals, policies, plans, and implementation activities related thereto. State agencies  
28 concerned with specific subject areas, local governments, and the public shall participate in the  
29 state guide planning process, which shall be closely coordinated with the budgeting process.

30 (e) Membership of state planning council. - The state planning council shall consist of:

31 (1) The director of the department of administration as chairperson;

32 (2) The director, policy office, in the office of the governor, as vice-chairperson;

33 (3) The governor, or his or her designee;

34 (4) The budget officer;

- 1 (5) The chairperson of the housing resources commission;
- 2 (6) The highest-ranking administrative officer of the division of planning, as secretary;
- 3 (7) The president of the League of Cities and Towns or his or her designee and one  
4 official of local government, who shall be appointed by the governor from a list of not less than  
5 three (3) submitted by the Rhode Island League Cities and Towns;
- 6 (8) The executive director of the League of Cities and Towns;
- 7 (9) One representative of a nonprofit community development or housing organization  
8 [appointed by the governor](#);
- 9 (10) Four (4) public members, appointed by the governor;
- 10 (11) Two (2) representatives of a private, nonprofit environmental advocacy  
11 organization, both to be appointed by the governor; ~~and~~
- 12 (12) The director of planning and development for the city of Providence;
- 13 [\(13\) The director of the department of transportation](#);
- 14 [\(14\) The director of the department of environmental management](#);
- 15 [\(15\) The director of the department of health; and](#)
- 16 [\(16\) The executive director of the economic development corporation.](#)
- 17 (f) Powers and duties of state planning council. - The state planning council shall have  
18 the following powers and duties:
  - 19 (1) To adopt strategic plans as defined in this section and the long-range state guide plan,  
20 and to modify and amend any of these, following the procedures for notification and public  
21 hearing set forth in section 42-35-3, and to recommend and encourage implementation of these  
22 goals to the general assembly, state and federal agencies, and other public and private bodies;  
23 approval of strategic plans by the governor; and to ensure that strategic plans and the long-range  
24 state guide plan are consistent with the findings, intent, and goals set forth in section 45-22.2-3,  
25 the "Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act";
  - 26 (2) To coordinate the planning and development activities of all state agencies, in  
27 accordance with strategic plans prepared and adopted as provided for by this section;
  - 28 (3) To review and comment on the proposed annual work program of the statewide  
29 planning program;
  - 30 (4) To adopt rules and standards and issue orders concerning any matters within its  
31 jurisdiction as established by this section and amendments to it;
  - 32 (5) To establish advisory committees and appoint members thereto representing diverse  
33 interests and viewpoints as required in the state planning process and in the preparation or  
34 implementation of strategic plans. The state planning council shall appoint a permanent

1 committee comprised of:

2 (i) Public members from different geographic areas of the state representing diverse  
3 interests, and

4 (ii) Officials of state, local and federal government, which shall review all proposed  
5 elements of the state guide plan, or amendment or repeal of any element of the plan, and shall  
6 advise the state planning council thereon before the council acts on any such proposal. This  
7 committee shall also advise the state planning council on any other matter referred to it by the  
8 council; and

9 (6) To establish and appoint members to an executive committee consisting of major  
10 participants of a Rhode Island geographic information system with oversight responsibility for its  
11 activities.

12 (7) To adopt, amend and maintain as an element of the state guide plan or as an  
13 amendment to an existing element of the state guide plan, standards and guidelines for the  
14 location of eligible renewable energy resources and renewable energy facilities in Rhode Island  
15 with due consideration for the location of such resources and facilities in commercial and  
16 industrial areas, agricultural areas, areas occupied by public and private institutions, and property  
17 of the state and its agencies and corporations, provided such areas are of sufficient size, and in  
18 other areas of the state as appropriate.

19 (g) Division of planning. - (1) The division of planning shall be the principal staff  
20 agency of the state planning council for preparing and/or coordinating strategic plans for the  
21 comprehensive management of the state's human, economic, and physical resources. The division  
22 of planning shall recommend to the state planning council specific guidelines, standards, and  
23 programs to be adopted to implement strategic planning and the state guide plan and shall  
24 undertake any other duties established by this section and amendments thereto.

25 (2) The division of planning shall maintain records (which shall consist of files of  
26 complete copies) of all plans, recommendations, rules, and modifications or amendments thereto  
27 adopted or issued by the state planning council under this section. The records shall be open to  
28 the public.

29 (3) The division of planning shall manage and administer the Rhode Island geographic  
30 information system of land-related resources, and shall coordinate these efforts with other state  
31 departments and agencies, including the University of Rhode Island, which shall provide  
32 technical support and assistance in the development and maintenance of the system and its  
33 associated data base.

34 (4) The division of planning shall coordinate and oversee the provision of technical

1 assistance to political subdivisions of the state in preparing and implementing plans to accomplish  
2 the purposes, goals, objectives, policies, and/or standards of applicable elements of the state guide  
3 plan and shall make available to cities and towns data and guidelines that may be used in  
4 preparing comprehensive plans and elements thereof and in evaluating comprehensive plans and  
5 elements thereby.

6 (h) [Deleted by P.L. 2011, ch. 215, section 4, and by P.L. 2011, ch. 313, section 4\_.

7 (i) The division of planning shall be the principal staff agency of the water resources  
8 board established pursuant to chapter 46-15 ("Water Resources Board") and the water resources  
9 board corporate established pursuant to chapter 46-15.1 ("Water Supply Facilities").

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1 This act would add four (4) members to the statewide planning council.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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