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LC00611/SUB A
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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 -- THE RHODE ISLAND
PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Miller, Felag, Bates, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 24, 2012

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 140.4

4 THE RHODE ISLAND PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY

5 COMMISSION

6 **42-140.4-1. Establishment of commission -- Purposes.** – (a) There is hereby authorized,
7 created and established an advisory commission to be known as “The Rhode Island petroleum
8 savings and independence advisory commission” with the powers and duties set forth in this
9 chapter.

10 (b) The purposes of this commission are to:

11 (1) To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants from the associated use of
12 petroleum;

13 (2) To make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, and public utilities
14 commission on how to reduce petroleum-based fuel consumption in Rhode Island;

15 (3) To provide input into decisions regarding fossil fuels in the state and to inform the
16 public and elected and appointed state officials of such opportunities, decisions, and
17 implementation;

18 (4) To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of state policies and programs to reduce

1 petroleum-based fuel consumption; and

2 (5) To consider and evaluate in-state marketing for advanced biofuels, electric cars,
3 efficiency programs for heating oil customers, and low level blends of bio-diesel across segments
4 of the heating and transportation sector in order to keep more energy dollars in Rhode Island.

5 (6) To act on matters related to reducing petroleum consumption from the heating and
6 transportation sectors in the state including, but not limited to, the creation of a petroleum savings
7 and independence plan (“Plan”) that includes a report, drawing on existing data and studies rather
8 than new analyses, on petroleum consumption in Rhode Island and the impact of petroleum
9 dependence on the state. The report must consider:

10 (A) Future petroleum costs to the drivers, homeowners, industries, and businesses of
11 Rhode Island;

12 (B) Environmental, public health, and national security consequences of Rhode Island’s
13 petroleum dependence;

14 (C) Local economic development opportunities, including job creation potential, of
15 improving energy efficiency and moving to clean, renewable, in-state energy sources;

16 (D) Proposed targets for reducing Rhode Island’s total petroleum consumption that
17 equals the maximum economically achievable savings. The targets may not provide less than a
18 thirty percent (30%) overall reduction in petroleum consumption from 2007 levels by 2030 and a
19 fifty percent (50%) overall reduction from 2007 levels by 2050; and

20 (E) Recommendations of the near-term and long-range strategies to achieve significant
21 reductions in petroleum consumption to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the
22 senate, and public utilities commission. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to
23 the following:

24 (i) Promoting and incentivizing transportation alternatives to personal vehicle use,
25 including expanding, investing in, and ensuring sustainable funding for public transportation
26 including rail options, and offering incentives for commuters to use public transportation where
27 available;

28 (ii) Promoting and incentivizing other practices to reduce fuel use in transportation,
29 including fuel efficient vehicles and carpooling, and establishing rebates or other consumer
30 incentives for retiring older, inefficient vehicles;

31 (iii) The rapid deployment of electric vehicles, through a combination of policies that
32 include comprehensive planning with utilities, investments in electric vehicle infrastructure, and
33 consumer tax incentives;

34 (iv) The implementation of “clean fuels” standards requiring transportation fuels above a

1 certain emissions target to purchase offsets from fuel sources that produce lower carbon
2 emissions;

3 (v) Coordinating land use and transportation planning where sensible to pursue “complete
4 streets” policies that create walkable and bikeable communities with access to public transit
5 options, and to encourage growth in areas accessible by walking, biking, and public
6 transportation;

7 (vi) Where possible, measures to reduce fuel use in aviation;

8 (vii) Diversifying energy sources for heating by expanding renewable sources;

9 (viii) Creating programs to deliver home and commercial weatherization and efficiency
10 improvements for households using oil for heat; and

11 (ix) Adopting other strategies that can help enable Rhode Island to achieve the oil
12 reduction targets.

13 (c) The commission shall report to the general assembly by April 2013 with
14 recommendations for specific legislative and administrative actions. By February 2014, and by
15 February every two (2) years thereafter, the advisory commission shall evaluate the state’s
16 progress toward meeting the petroleum-reduction goals and update the plan to make additional
17 recommendations as necessary to ensure that the state meets such goals.

18 **42-140.4-2. Composition of the commission.** – (a) The commission shall consist of
19 seventeen (17) voting members as follows:

20 (1) The director of the department of environmental management, or designee;

21 (2) The administrator of the office of energy resources, or designee;

22 (3) The director of the department of transportation, or designee;

23 (4) A member of the energy efficiency & resource management council;

24 (5) A member of the renewable energy coordinating board;

25 (6) The director of the University of Rhode Island energy center, or designee;

26 (7) The director of the University of Rhode Island transportation center, or designee;

27 (8) Four (4) members of the Rhode Island general assembly;

28 (i) One representative from each party appointed by the speaker of the house; and

29 (ii) One senator from each party to be appointed by the president of the senate;

30 (9) Six (6) additional voting members shall be nominated and voted on by the
31 commission’s voting members, as set forth above, with expertise in:

32 (i) Environmental issues;

33 (ii) Residential and commercial heating oil;

34 (iii) Public transportation, transit-orientated development, and/or transportation

1 policy:

2 (iv) Residential and low-income energy provision; and

3 (v) Biodiesel sector issues; and

4 (vi) Ethanol sector issues.

5 (b) Two (2) of those additional members selected pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of this
6 section shall serve initial terms of three (3) years; two (2) of those additional members selected
7 pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of this section shall serve initial terms of four (4) years; and two (2)
8 of those additional members selected pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of this section shall serve
9 initial terms of five (5) years. Thereafter, members selected pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of this
10 section shall serve terms of five (5) years and may be reappointed. Any vacancy in the office of a
11 member selected pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of this section shall be filled in the same manner as
12 provided therein, and any such appointment shall be for the balance of the current term of that
13 office.

14 **42-140.4-3. Powers and duties of the commission.** The board shall have the following
15 powers and duties:

16 (1) Develop short-term and long-term strategic plans with respect to strategies to reduce
17 petroleum consumption from the home heating and transportation sectors in Rhode Island;

18 (2) Identify, promote, and recommend policies to further reduce petroleum consumption
19 in the state including, but not limited to, those issues set forth in this chapter; and

20 (3) Consider such other matters as it may deem appropriate to the fulfillment of its
21 purposes, and advise the governor, the general assembly, other parties, and the public with regard
22 to matters pertaining to its purposes and duties, which advice may include findings and
23 recommendations.

24 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 -- THE RHODE ISLAND
PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

- 1 This act would establish the Rhode Island petroleum savings and independence advisory
- 2 commission.
- 3 The act would the effect upon passage.

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