

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 - ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROCEDURES

Introduced By: Senator Louis P. DiPalma

Date Introduced: May 17, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws entitled, "Administrative Procedures" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

3 **42-35-9.1. Administrative hearing assessment and study.** -- (a) In order to assess,  
4 standardize and create efficiency and fairness in the administrative hearing process in state  
5 agencies, the department of administration, with the assistance from the state budget office and  
6 the personnel administrator, shall conduct an assessment and study of the administrative hearing  
7 practices across state government performed by individuals employed by the state. The study  
8 shall not include administrative hearings conducted by boards, committees, or commissions who  
9 are unpaid by the state for their time.

10 (b) All state agencies on or before August 1, 2012, shall each provide the following  
11 information and records to the director of the department of administration:

12 (1) A complete list of the types of administrative hearings performed on behalf of the  
13 agency including a description of the type of hearing, expertise that may be required and statutory  
14 authority for conducting such a hearing;

15 (2) The number of hearings listed by each type of hearing as described in subdivision (1)  
16 performed by each agency in each fiscal year for the past three (3) fiscal years ending June 30,  
17 2012, along with the average time-frame for each type of matter to be adjudicated;

18 (3) The agency rules or regulations governing any such administrative hearings;

1           (4) A complete list of personnel by name, title, grade, division of agency, and total rate of  
2 salary, who conduct agency administrative hearings including the type of hearing performed by  
3 each individual, along with the percentage of the person's time spent on administrative hearing  
4 duties as a full-time equivalent;

5           (5) A complete list of all agency positions with name, title, division, and total rate of  
6 salary of each position, that include administrative hearing duties in either the job title or job  
7 description;

8           (6) A complete list of vacancies that have administrative hearing duties in the job title job  
9 description; and

10          (7) The total number, as a full-time equivalent, performing all administrative hearings for  
11 the agency.

12          (c) On or before September 30, 2012, the department of administration, with assistance  
13 from the state budget office and the personnel administrator, shall provide to the governor,  
14 speaker of the house of representatives, senate president, and chairpersons of the house and senate  
15 finance committees a report regarding the assessment and study of administrative hearing  
16 practices in the state agencies. The report shall include:

17           (1) An executive summary of administrative hearing practices across state government;

18           (2) A recommendation and/or a plan on how to standardize, consolidate and make more  
19 efficient the administrative hearing process across state agencies;

20           (3) A recommendation regarding the potential need for certain hearing officers to be  
21 qualified subject matter experts;

22           (4) Legislative or regulatory recommendations for a standardized administrative hearing  
23 process across state agencies;

24           (5) Recommendations regarding the number of full-time equivalents needed to perform  
25 administrative hearing duties;

26           (6) A copy of the information and records supplied by each of the agencies listed in  
27 subsection (b); and

28           (7) Any other information deemed to be appropriate.

29          (d) Each agency shall fully cooperate with the department of administration regarding the  
30 assessment and study and shall dedicate appropriate resources as needed to complete this  
31 assessment. Additionally, the state budget office and the personnel administrator shall dedicate  
32 appropriate resources and assist the department of administration in compiling and analyzing the  
33 information and completing the report for the general assembly.

1           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall sunset and expire on  
2   December 31, 2012, unless specifically reauthorized by the general assembly.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ADMINISTRATIVE  
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1           This act would authorize the department of administration to conduct a comprehensive  
2 study of administrative hearing practices across state government.

3           This act would take effect upon passage and would sunset and expire on December 31,  
4 2012, unless specifically reauthorized by the general assembly.

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