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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - THE RHODE ISLAND PORT
MARKETING COLLABORATIVE OF 2013

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Walsh, Tanzi, Trillo, and McNamara

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

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 64.15

4 THE RHODE ISLAND PORT MARKETING COLLABORATIVE OF 2013

5 **42-64.15-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Rhode
6 Island Port Marketing Collaborative of 2013.”

7 **42-64.15-2. Legislative findings.** – (a) It is found that our state has a long maritime
8 history which has benefited the public through improved employment opportunities, increased tax
9 revenues, improved logistics services and reduced transportation costs for consumers and
10 businesses.

11 (b) It is further found that some of Rhode Island’s greatest resources exist in its
12 waterfronts and ports, allowing Rhode Island to be competitive on regional, national, and
13 international levels.

14 (c) It is further found that the development and implementation of a statewide port
15 strategy is critical to economic development in the state of Rhode Island.

16 (d) It is further found that a statewide port strategy will help alleviate the substantial and
17 persistent unemployment and underemployment which causes hardship to many of the state’s
18 individuals and families.

1 (e) It is further found and declared that it is the public policy of the state to encourage the
2 expansion and development of the state's harbors, ports and related infrastructure; to foster and
3 improve the handling of waterborne commerce from and to any port of this state and other states
4 and foreign countries; to seek to improve the competitive posture of ports of this state and other
5 states and foreign countries; to seek to improve the competitive posture of ports of this state and
6 to promote a spirit of cooperation among these ports in the interest of the state as a whole; to
7 initiate and further plan for the responsible development and marketing of the ports of this state
8 and to keep the government and citizens of Rhode Island informed as to their present and future
9 requirements.

10 (f) It is further found and declared to be the policy of the state to promote a vigorous and
11 growing maritime economy, to prevent economic stagnation, and to encourage the creation of
12 new job opportunities in order to ameliorate the hazards of unemployment and underemployment,
13 reduce the level of public assistance, increase revenues to the state and its municipalities, and to
14 achieve a thriving and diversified economy.

15 **42-64.15-3. Definitions.** – When used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the
16 following meanings:

17 (1) "Collaborative" means the Rhode Island port marketing collaborative established
18 pursuant to section 20-38-4;

19 (2) "State agencies" means state entities responsible for the implementation of Rhode
20 Island's seaport management and economic development, including, but not be limited to:

21 (i) The department of environmental management;

22 (ii) The economic development corporation;

23 (iii) The coastal resources management council; and

24 (v) The department of administration.

25 **42-64.15-4. Collaborative established.** – (a) There is hereby created an interagency
26 collaborative known as "The Rhode Island Port Marketing Collaborative" consisting of seventeen
27 (17) members as follows:

28 (1) One of whom shall be the governor's port economic policy ombudsperson, who shall
29 be chairperson;

30 (2) One of whom shall be the director of the RI bays, rivers, and watersheds coordination
31 team, who shall be vice-chairperson;

32 (3) One of whom shall be the executive director of the economic development
33 corporation, or his or her designee;

34 (4) One of whom shall be the executive director of the Quonset development corporation,

- 1 or his or her designee;
- 2 (5) One of whom shall be a representative from other port-related businesses in the ports
3 of Quonset Point/Davisville appointed by the speaker of the house;
- 4 (6) One of whom shall be a representative from other port-related businesses in the ports
5 of Quonset Point/Davisville appointed by the president of the senate;
- 6 (7) One of whom shall be the director of the North Kingstown chamber of commerce or
7 his or her designee;
- 8 (8) One of whom shall be a representative from Prov-Port;
- 9 (9) One of whom shall be a representative from other port-related businesses in the port
10 of Providence appointed by the speaker of the house;
- 11 (10) One of whom shall be a representative from other port-related businesses in the port
12 of Providence appointed by the president of the senate;
- 13 (11) One of whom shall be the director of the Providence chamber of commerce, or his or
14 her designee;
- 15 (12) One of whom shall be the director of DEM or his or her designee responsible for
16 state ports in Galilee and Newport;
- 17 (13) One of whom shall be a representative from a port-related business in the port of
18 Newport appointed by the president of the senate;
- 19 (14) One of whom shall be a representative from a port-related business in the port of
20 Galilee appointed by the speaker of the house;
- 21 (15) One of whom shall be the director of the Newport chamber of commerce or
22 convention and visitors bureau, or his or her designee;
- 23 (16) One of whom shall be the president of the Rhode Island marine trades association or
24 his or her designee; and
- 25 (17) One of whom shall be the executive director of the coastal resources management
26 council, or his or her designee.
- 27 (b) Forthwith upon the passage of this chapter, the members of the collaborative shall
28 meet at the call of the chairperson or vice-chairperson and organize. Thereafter, the collaborative
29 shall meet quarterly and at the call of the chairperson or three (3) members of the collaborative.
- 30 (c) All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
31 documentation, and otherwise to the collaborative and its agents as is deemed necessary or
32 desirable by the collaborative to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.
- 33 (d) The members of the collaborative shall receive no compensation for their services.
- 34 (e) The economic development corporation shall provide a place for the collaborative to

1 conduct its meetings.

2 **42-64.15-5. Powers and duties.** – The Rhode Island port marketing collaborative shall
3 support the Rhode Island maritime community and collectively promote the national and
4 international marketing of Rhode Island seaports, including, but not limited to:

5 (1) Identify opportunities for Rhode Island’s seaports to be competitive on regional,
6 national, and international levels;

7 (2) Identify and facilitate opportunities to increase exporting from seaports;

8 (3) Identify and facilitate opportunities to establish agreements with local businesses for
9 potential economic expansion;

10 (4) Review and identify existing studies, pilot programs and initiatives of this state and
11 other states regarding port marketing, infrastructure development, and business development
12 opportunities;

13 (5) Develop and devise a statewide port strategy critical to economic development, job
14 creation and retention in the state of Rhode Island;

15 (6) Identify funding sources available to Rhode Island seaports to support marketing;

16 (7) Respond to requests for information from the legislature and comment on proposed
17 legislation; and

18 (8) Issue recommendations necessary to achieve these goals.

19 **42-64.15-6. Meeting and reporting requirements.** – (a) The collaborative shall provide
20 a report of its findings addressing the research, marketing, expansion and funding opportunities
21 for port facilities in Rhode Island. Said report shall be provided to the governor and general
22 assembly by April 30, 2014.

23 (b) Thereafter, the collaborative shall report to the governor and the general assembly, no
24 later than April 30 of each year, on the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives set
25 forth in this chapter and any other pertinent information by April 30, 2014.

26 (c) The collaborative shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 38-2, access to public
27 records act, and chapter 42-46, open meetings act.

28 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 PORT
MARKETING COLLABORATIVE OF 2013

- 1 This act would establish the Rhode Island Port Marketing Collaborative of 2013 to
- 2 encourage the expansion and development of the state's harbors, ports, and related infrastructure.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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