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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 - ECONOMIC POLICY
ADVISORY COMMISSION (EPAC)

Introduced By: Representatives Giarrusso, Newberry, Chippendale, Costa, and Morgan

Date Introduced: April 23, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

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 155

4 ECONOMIC POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (EPAC)

5 **42-155-1. Establishment of commission.** – There is established within the executive
6 department a permanent commission to be known as the "Governor's Advisory Commission on
7 Economic Policy", hereinafter referred to as "the commission".

8 **42-155-2. Composition of commission.** – The commission shall be composed of a
9 minimum of seven (7) members, and a maximum of twelve (12) members the governor may
10 appoint. The commission shall consist of at least ten (10) nationally-recognized leaders with
11 specific expertise, with one representative each from the fields of transportation, housing,
12 education, tourism, taxation, workforce development, energy, and healthcare. Two (2) additional
13 members may be appointed by the governor without respect to their residency or area of
14 expertise. Members will serve at the pleasure of the governor. Initial appointments of one year
15 will be made to one-third of the members, two (2) year appointments made to a second one-third
16 of the members, and the final one-third of the members will be appointed to a term of three (3)
17 years. All terms made subsequent to the first year will be for three (3) year terms. Members
18 whose terms are expiring may be appointed to a subsequent term but no member shall serve on

1 the commission a total of more than six (6) years or three (3) full terms of whatever duration.

2 **42-155-3. Goals of commission.** – The goals of the commission shall be: (1) To provide
3 the governor and the secretary of economic development with independent counsel and advice
4 regarding issues within their individual areas of expertise, and collectively on economic
5 development matters.

6 (2) To assist the office of economic development and its staff with the development of a
7 measurement regime to establish a baseline and track performance on specific economic
8 development goals and objectives, and annually to report publicly on the state's economic
9 performance.

10 (3) To identify and recommend elimination of systemic barriers limiting economic
11 growth and business development.

12 **42-155-4. Leadership.** – The governor shall serve as chairman of the commission. The
13 commission shall elect from its own membership a vice chairperson, who shall serve until his or
14 her successor is elected, and who is authorized to act as chairperson pro tempore of the
15 commission. The commission shall appoint an executive secretary who shall be a full-time
16 employee of the office of economic development to serve the commission as required. The office
17 of economic development will provide staff, as required, to the commission.

18 **42-155-5. Meetings.** – The commission shall meet at least twice annually, at a time and
19 place designated by the governor. At least one of its annual meetings will be held in Rhode
20 Island.

21 **42-155-6. Compensation and expenses.** – The members of the commission shall each be
22 compensated at the rate of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) per year, and will, at the discretion
23 of the governor, be reimbursed the actual cost of their travel and other expense associated with
24 their attendance at meetings and as incurred in the performance of their official duties.
25 Appointees shall receive no additional compensation or benefits.

26 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 - ECONOMIC POLICY
ADVISORY COMMISSION (EPAC)

- 1 This act would create the "governor's advisory commission on economic policy", and
- 2 provide for the composition and duties of its members and their compensation.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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