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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 - LONG-TERM ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT VISION AND POLICY

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Paiva Weed, DiPalma, Pearson, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Commerce

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 LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 **42-64.15-1. Long-term Economic Development Vision and Policy. -- (a) No later than**  
6 **October 31, 2013 the Economic Development Corporation and the Division of Planning shall**  
7 **develop a written long-term economic development vision and policy for the state of Rhode**  
8 **Island and a strategic plan for implementing the policy. Such a plan shall include, but not be**  
9 **limited to:**

10 (1) a unified economic development strategy for the state that integrates business growth  
11 with land use and transportation choices;

12 (2) an analysis of how the state's infrastructure can best support this unified economic  
13 development strategy;

14 (3) a focus and prioritization that the outcomes of the economic development strategy be  
15 equitable for all Rhode Islanders;

16 (4) reliance on comprehensive economic data and analysis relating to Rhode Island's  
17 economic competitiveness, business climate, national and regional reputation, and present  
18 economic development resources;

1           (5) suggestions for improving and expanding the skills, abilities, and resources of state  
2 agencies, municipalities, and community partners to speed implementation of the plans'  
3 recommendations; and

4           (6) the inclusion of detailed implementation plans, including stated goals, specific  
5 performance measures and indicators.

6           (b) On or before October 31, 2014, the Economic Development Corporation and the  
7 Division of Planning shall submit the written long-term economic development vision and policy  
8 and implementation plan to the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

9           (c) Beginning January 1, 2015, and during the first year of each new or re-elected  
10 gubernatorial administration thereafter, the governor shall convene an economic development  
11 planning council consisting of no fewer than nineteen (19) members: one of whom shall be the  
12 director of the economic development corporation, who shall serve as chair; one of whom shall be  
13 the director of the department of administration, one of whom shall be the director of revenue;  
14 one of whom shall be the director of the department of labor and training; one of whom shall be  
15 the director of the department of environmental management; one of whom shall be the director  
16 of the department of transportation; one of whom shall be the director of the department of  
17 business regulation; one of whom shall be the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
18 education; one of whom shall be appointed by speaker of the house of representatives; one of  
19 whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate; and nine of whom shall be appointed by  
20 the governor: one of whom shall be the president of the University of Rhode Island, or the  
21 president of Rhode Island College, or the president of the Community College of Rhode Island,  
22 one of whom shall be a representative from the league of cities and towns, two of whom shall be  
23 a representative from a chamber of commerce, one of whom shall be from a non-profit  
24 organization representing a major industry sector in Rhode Island, one of whom shall represent a  
25 business with more than one hundred employees located in Rhode Island, one of whom shall  
26 represent a business with fewer than one hundred employees located in Rhode Island, one of  
27 whom shall be from a venture capital firm with a principal place of business in the Rhode Island,  
28 and one of whom shall represent a private sector labor union. Any department director appointed  
29 as a member of the council may appoint a designee from his or her respective agency to represent  
30 him/her on the council. Members of the council shall serve for a term of one year or until an  
31 economic development policy has been approved by the governor under this section.

32           (d) The economic development planning council shall develop a written long-term  
33 economic development vision and policy for the state and a strategic plan for implementing the  
34 policy. In developing the policy, the council shall review and consider the published economic

1 development policy and implementation plan in effect at the commencement of the governor's  
2 term of office. The policy shall set long term goals and measurable benchmarks which are not  
3 limited to a particular gubernatorial administration and shall give consideration to any impacts the  
4 plan may have on businesses employing ten (10) or fewer people. The strategic plan shall include  
5 any major economic development initiatives and programs in effect at the time of the plan's  
6 creation. In developing the policy the council may hold public hearings throughout the state.

7 (e) Once the policy and plan have been approved and adopted by the council, the council  
8 shall submit the policy and plan to the senate and house of representatives. The approved policy  
9 and plan shall be published in writing and on the official website of the state no later than  
10 December 31 of that year.

11 (f) The Economic Development Corporation shall be responsible for staffing the work of  
12 the Council and the division of planning shall also provide staff support. All departments  
13 represented on the council shall cooperate with the economic development corporation and the  
14 division of planning to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.

15 (g) Subject to funding, the Council shall be able to hire consultants and related assistance  
16 to provide the type of analysis necessary to inform their work.

17 (h) All departments, offices, boards and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the  
18 economic development planning council and furnish such administrative and staff support,  
19 advice, information, documentary and otherwise, data and data analysis and other support as may  
20 be necessary or desirable.

21 (i) In carrying out the responsibility under this order, the Council may: (1) accept grant  
22 funds and in-kind contributions from governmental and private entities; (2) hold hearings; (3)  
23 invite experts and other witnesses to submit testimony; and (4) contract with experts and  
24 consultants as necessary to inform deliberations and recommendations.

25 (j) In addition to any other applicable law, rules or regulations, the economic  
26 development planning council shall be subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Title  
27 42, Chapter 46 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the Public Records Act, Title 38, Chapter 2  
28 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

29 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 - LONG-TERM ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT VISION AND POLICY

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1           This act would establish a nineteen (19) member economic development planning council  
2 to develop a written long-term economic development vision and policy and strategic  
3 implementation plan. This act would also direct the economic development corporation and the  
4 division of planning to develop the initial written long-term economic development vision and  
5 policy and strategic implementation plan for submission to the governor, senate and house of  
6 representatives on or before October 31, 2014.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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