

2014 -- H 7120 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC003228/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Introduced By: Representatives Valencia, Walsh, Kennedy, Tanzi, and Dickinson

Date Introduced: January 16, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-17.1-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-17.1 entitled
2 "Department of Environmental Management" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-17.1-4. Divisions within department.** -- Within the department of environmental
4 management there are established the following divisions:

5 (1) A division of parks and recreation ~~which~~ that shall carry out those functions of the
6 department relating to the operation and maintenance of parks and recreation areas and the
7 establishment and maintenance of such additional recreation areas as may from time to time be
8 acquired and such other functions and duties as may from time to time be assigned by the
9 director;

10 (2) A division of fish and wildlife ~~which~~ that shall carry out those functions of the
11 department relating to the administration of hunting, fishing, and shell fisheries; the preservation
12 of wetlands, marsh lands, and wildlife; and such other functions and duties as may from time to
13 time be assigned by the director;

14 (3) A division of agriculture ~~which~~ that shall carry out those functions of the department
15 relating to agriculture, and such other functions and duties as may from time to time be assigned
16 by the director, including, but not limited to, plant industry, farm viability, marketing and
17 promotion, farmland ecology and protection, plant and animal health and quarantine, pesticides,
18 mosquito abatement, pest survey and response, food policy and security, and, in collaboration
19 with the department of health, public health as it relates to farm production and direct marketing

1 of farm products, and those agreed upon through memorandum of agreement with the department
2 of health or other state agencies. The department of health shall continue to act as the lead agency
3 for all public health issues in the state pursuant to chapter ~~23-1~~ [of title 23](#). Nothing herein
4 contained shall limit the department of health's statutory authority, nor shall any provision herein
5 be construed as a limitation upon the statutory authority of the department of health granted to the
6 department under title 23 of the general laws, nor shall any provision herein be construed to limit
7 the authority of the department of environmental management to enter into memoranda of
8 agreement with any governmental agency. [The chief of the division of agriculture shall report](#)
9 [directly to the director.](#)

10 (4) A division of coastal resources ~~which~~ [that](#) shall carry out those functions of the
11 department relating to harbors and harbor lines, pilotage, flood control, shore development,
12 construction of port facilities, and the registration of boats and such other functions and duties as
13 may, from time to time, be assigned by the director, except that the division shall not be
14 responsible for the functions of inspection of dams and reservoirs, approving plans for
15 construction or improvement of dams, reservoirs, and other structures in non-tidal waters, and the
16 operation of stream-gauging stations in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey,
17 and provided, further, that the division and its staff shall be responsible through the director of
18 environmental management, to the coastal resources management council, and the chief and the
19 staff of the division shall serve as staff to the council;

20 (5) A division of planning and development ~~which~~ [that](#) shall carry out those functions of
21 the department relating to planning, programming, acquisition of land, engineering studies, and
22 such other studies as the director may direct, and ~~which~~ [that](#) shall work with the board of
23 governors for higher education and the board of regents for elementary and secondary education,
24 with educational institutions at all levels, and with the public in the dissemination of information
25 and education relating to natural resources, and shall perform the publication and public relations
26 functions of the department, the functions of inspection of dams and reservoirs, approving plans
27 for construction or improvement of dams, reservoirs, and other structures in non-tidal waters, and
28 the operation of stream-gauging stations in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey;

29 (6) A division of enforcement ~~which~~ [that](#) shall enforce all of the laws and regulations of
30 the department and the coastal resources management council, ~~which~~ [that](#) shall cooperate with the
31 other enforcement agencies of the state and its municipalities, and ~~which~~ [that](#) shall administer all
32 of the policing, enforcing, licensing, registration, and inspection functions of the department and
33 such other functions and duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the director;

34 (7) A division of forest environment ~~which~~ [that](#) shall carry out those functions of the

1 department relating to the administration of forests and natural areas, including programs for
2 utilization, conservation, forest fire protection, and improvements of these areas; assisting other
3 agencies and local governments in urban programs relating to trees, forests, green belts, and
4 environment and such other functions and duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the
5 director; and

6 (8) (i) A division of boating safety ~~which~~ that shall carry out those functions of the
7 department relating to the development and administration of a coordinated, safe boating program
8 in accordance with the Model Safe Boating Act of 1971 as approved by the National Association
9 of State Boating Law Administrators;

10 (ii) Administration of the division of boating safety shall be the responsibility of the state
11 boating law administrator whose duties shall include:

12 (A) The enforcement of all laws relating to the act; and

13 (B) The powers vested in the state boating law administrator and boating safety
14 enforcement officer shall include the enforcement of laws, rules and regulations relating to
15 "Regulation of Boats," ~~title 46,~~ chapter 22 of title 46 and shall also include the power to:

16 (I) Execute all warrants and search warrants for the violation of laws, rules, and
17 regulations relating to the act.

18 (II) Serve subpoenas issued for the trial of all offenses hereunder.

19 (III) To carry firearms or other weapons, concealed or otherwise, in the course of, and in
20 performance of, their duties under this chapter.

21 (IV) To arrest without warrant and on view any person found violating any law, rule, or
22 regulation relating to the act; take that person before a court having jurisdiction for trial; detain
23 that person in custody at the expense of the state until arraignment; and to make and execute
24 complaints within any district to the justice or clerk of the court against any person for any of the
25 offenses enumerated under the act committed within the district.

26 (V) Boating safety enforcement officers shall not be required to give surety for costs
27 upon any complaint made by him or her.

28 (iii) The development and administration of a coordinated, safe boating program.

29 (iv) The establishment and enforcement of such rules and regulations as are deemed
30 necessary to achieve the purposes of the Model Safe Boating Act as approved by the state boating
31 law administrators.

32 (v) The state boating law administrator shall serve as the liaison to the United States
33 Coast Guard.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would provide that the chief of the division of agriculture would report directly
- 2 to the director of the department of environmental management.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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