

2014 -- S 3101

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO DELAY EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF THE EXISTING BEACH FEES COLLECTION CONTRACT

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Cote, DiPalma, Sosnowski, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: June 12, 2014

Referred To: Placed on Senate Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The fees for access and parking at state-owned beaches have been  
2 substantially increased; and

3 WHEREAS, Data now exists that can be calculated and evaluated to determine the effect  
4 the increased fees have had or may have on the state, the municipalities, vendors, and the public;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The existing contract for collection of beach fees will expire on September  
7 1, 2014, and is believed that the contract is in the process of being renegotiated by the  
8 Department of Environmental Management; and

9 WHEREAS, The increase in the fees during the term of the existing contract has resulted  
10 in an unintended windfall profit in excess of one million dollars for the collecting entity; and

11 WHEREAS, There have been substantial improvements in the technology for collecting  
12 parking and access fees which should be considered before entering into a new collection  
13 contract; and

14 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Senate has established a commission to study the effects  
15 of the increased beach fees which will issue its report and findings on or before January 7, 2015;  
16 now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
18 hereby respectfully requests the Department of Environmental Management not agree to any  
19 extension or renewal of the existing beach fee contract until February 1, 2015; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
3 Environmental Management.

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