

2018 -- S 2356

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING THE RHODE ISLAND SENATE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND
CLIMATE BENEFITS OF DIRECT AIR CARBON CAPTURE

Introduced By: Senator Jeanine Calkin

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, The effects of climate change on the State of Rhode Island are real,
2 measurable and publicly recognized, including: a rising sea level measured 10.6 inches since
3 1930 at the Newport Tide Gauge; thirty percent more intense storms driving worsening floods;
4 measurably longer and hotter summers and heat waves; and increasingly damaging coastal storms
5 and sea surge; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island faces significant economic risks from flooding and sea rise
7 because of its size and its coastal assets, exposure and its intricate web of inland rivers and
8 streams; damage to its publicly and privately owned coastal properties, businesses and
9 infrastructure from rising sea levels and increased storm surge, business interruption, property
10 devaluation, lost tax revenue to the municipalities and the state and climate-driven changes on
11 labor productivity and public health; and harm to its marine industries, real estate industry and
12 tourism which are three of Rhode Island's biggest economic drivers; and

13 WHEREAS, The effects of climate change are projected to grow more severe with each
14 passing year causing ever greater damage and harm; and

15 WHEREAS, World governments are focused on stopping climate change through the
16 reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions as established in the Paris Agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, Climate experts are recognizing that cessation alone will not stop climate
18 change and that CO₂ capture is also necessary to halt and reverse its effects; and

19 WHEREAS, Direct air CO₂ capture refers to technology that can extract industrial-scale

1 quantities of CO₂ from the atmosphere, as opposed to point-source Carbon Capture and Storage
2 (CCS) which captures CO₂ only from flue stacks of fossil fuel power plants and industry; and

3 WHEREAS, Direct air CO₂ capture can occur at any location on Earth; and

4 WHEREAS, The CO₂ collected by direct air CO₂ capture can be used in ways that
5 sequester carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere; and

6 WHEREAS, Direct air CO₂ capture also offers Rhode Island opportunities to grow its
7 economy through industries that use CO₂; including beverage, food and greenhouse industries
8 and producers of industrial gases; and industries that sequester carbon, including manufacturers
9 of biofertilizers, carbon building materials and carbon plastics; and

10 WHEREAS, To date, there has been no comprehensive assessment of the economic
11 benefit of direct air CO₂ capture in Rhode Island; and

12 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's business community and the public sector are partners in
13 moving the economy forward and each play an active role in helping to determine how best to
14 assess the economic opportunities of CO₂ capture, and how to formulate a plan that moves Rhode
15 Island forward in a sustainable, affordable direction; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Rhode Island Senate Commission on Economic and Climate
17 Benefits of Carbon Capture be and the same is hereby created consisting of twelve (12) members:
18 three (3) of whom shall be members of Rhode Island environmental groups, one representing the
19 Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI), one representing the Rhode Island Climate
20 Change Collaborative, one representing the Tri-State Climate Coalition to be appointed by the
21 Senate President; one of whom shall be the President of the Conservation Law Foundation, or
22 designee; one of whom shall be from a Rhode Island institution of higher learning with a
23 specialization in CO₂ capture and conversion, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of
24 whom shall represent ecoRI News, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be
25 from a reference librarian from a Rhode Island institution of higher learning, to be appointed by
26 the Senate President; two (2) of whom shall be representatives of Rhode Island companies which
27 utilize CO₂, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the President of the
28 Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the
29 Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Rhode Island
30 Secretary of Commerce, or designee.

31 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study to assess the
32 economic opportunities of CO₂ capture in Rhode Island and report to the General Assembly,
33 including, but not limited to:

34 (1) Identify all commercially-available direct air CO₂ capture systems. For each system,

1 determine the cost of the system, the cost of captured CO₂ and a projected profit over 10 years
2 based on the cost of the system, the cost of captured CO₂ and the projected cost of CO₂ on the
3 CO₂ market. Assess which system will generate the largest profits;

4 (2) Identify all users of CO₂ in Rhode Island, determine which users could use the full
5 annual capacity of the most-profitable direct air CO₂ capture system and project their 10-year
6 profits or cost-savings from the system. Identify the factors that would allow them to build a
7 system. For users who cannot make full use of the system's capacity, assess the economic
8 feasibility of building a centrally-located system and transporting the CO₂ across the state. If
9 economically feasible, project the profits or cost savings for each user of purchasing CO₂ from a
10 central system. If economically feasible, compare the costs, benefits and disadvantages of
11 building a public, public/private, and private system;

12 (3) Make a comprehensive assessment of the commercial uses of CO₂ throughout the
13 world. Determine which uses sequester carbon the most. Study how to attract businesses that
14 sequester the most carbon to Rhode Island or how to create startups of those businesses in the
15 state;

16 (4) Forecast future uses of CO₂ that will sequester carbon, and create a list for subsequent
17 studies.

18 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
19 the call of the Senate President and organize and shall select a chairperson.

20 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.
21 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services. All
22 departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information, documentary
23 and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the
24 commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

25 The Senate President is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for
26 said commission; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
28 Senate no later than December 31, 2018, and said commission shall expire on January 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING THE RHODE ISLAND SENATE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND
CLIMATE BENEFITS OF DIRECT AIR CARBON CAPTURE

- 1 This resolution would create a twelve (12) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study and make recommendations concerning the economic
- 3 opportunities of direct air CO₂ capture in Rhode Island, and who would report back to the Senate
- 4 no later than December 31, 2018, and whose life would expire on January 1, 2019.

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