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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FISCAL YEAR
2022

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: December 07, 2021

Referred To: Senate Finance

(Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16 of Article 1 of Chapter 162 of the Public Laws of 2021 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows: The appropriations from federal funds contained in Section 1 shall not
3 be construed to mean any federal funds or assistance appropriated, authorized, allocated or
4 apportioned to the State of Rhode Island from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and the Coronavirus
5 Capital Projects Fund enacted pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2. For
6 fiscal year 2022, State Fiscal Recovery Fund monies apportioned to the State of Rhode Island
7 pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, are hereby appropriated in the
8 following amounts for the stated departments and purposes set forth below. The state controller is
9 hereby authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment
10 of such sums or such portions thereof as may be required from time to time upon receipt by him or
11 her of properly authenticated vouchers.

12 (a) Executive Office of Commerce \$74,500,000

13 (1) Of this amount, thirty-two million dollars (\$32,000,000) shall be allocated to a program
14 of financial and technical assistance to small businesses and COVID-impacted industries as
15 follows: twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000) shall be provided as direct
16 payments to businesses for lost revenue, ten million five hundred thousand dollars (\$10,500,000)
17 shall support technical assistance for long-term business capacity building, seven million five
18 hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) shall support capital improvements for public health

1 upgrades and outdoor programming, and one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000)
2 shall be allocated to support administration of these programs. To be eligible to receive funds or
3 support under this program a business must have less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in
4 annual gross revenues and demonstrate a negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic as
5 determined by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. Under this program, total support in the
6 form of direct payments, technical assistance, or capital improvement grants shall not exceed ten
7 thousand dollars (\$10,000) per eligible business through any single program and shall not exceed
8 twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in the aggregate. Provided further that at least twenty percent
9 (20%) of all funds must be reserved for awards to assist minority business enterprises as defined in
10 chapter 14.1 of title 37.

11 (2) Of this amount fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) shall be allocated under the
12 administration of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation to the development
13 of affordable housing units by allocating these funds to projects in conjunction with general
14 obligation bond funds and other sources of available financing provided that the Coordinating
15 Committee of the Housing Resources Commission has established guidelines for the use of
16 Housing Production Fund resources authorized pursuant to § 42-128-2.1.

17 (3) Of this amount thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000) shall be allocated to a program
18 of assistance to the tourism, hospitality, and events industries as follows: eight million dollars
19 (\$8,000,000) shall be provided as direct payments to businesses for lost revenue, three million
20 dollars (\$3,000,000) shall support outdoor and public space capital improvements and event
21 programming, and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) shall support tourism marketing in
22 coordination with state tourism regions and the Airport Corporation. A business is eligible to
23 receive funds or support under this program if it can demonstrate a negative impact from the
24 COVID-19 pandemic as determined by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

25 (4) Of this amount twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) shall be allocated to the Rhode
26 Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation toward the acquisition of properties for
27 redevelopment as affordable housing and supportive housing to finance projects that include
28 requirements for deed restrictions not less than thirty (30) years, and a non-recourse structure.

29 (5) Of this amount one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) shall be
30 allocated to the Office of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with the Rhode
31 Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation for grants to providers to expand housing
32 navigation, stabilization, and mental health services, of which not more than two hundred fifty
33 thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be for training. The Chief of the Office shall send monthly reports
34 beginning thirty (30) days after passage to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and

1 chairs of the House and Senate finance committees and the respective fiscal advisors which
2 describe the state of progress in achieving these goals and the goals in subsection (a)(7) below as
3 of the date of the report, and describe marginal changes from the prior month's report.

4 (6) Of this amount five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be allocated to
5 broadband services as follows: one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to support a state
6 broadband director at the Commerce Corporation, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to
7 coordinate and develop a statewide strategic plan to provide broadband access to unserved and
8 underserved households and businesses, and two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to conduct
9 broadband access mapping in support of future state broadband investment.

10 (7) Of this amount five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be dedicated to
11 expanding programmatic and administrative capacity for affordable housing in Rhode Island.

12 (b) Executive Office of Health and Human Services \$13,000,000

13 (1) Of this amount, seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) shall be
14 allocated to support relief to pediatric providers in response to the decline in visitation and
15 enrollment caused by the public health emergency as follows: six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for
16 stabilization grant funding if certain targets established by the Executive Office of Health and
17 Human Services are met by the pediatric providers and one million five hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$1,500,000) to be awarded to incentivize pediatric providers to increase developmental and
19 psychosocial behavioral screenings.

20 (2) Of this amount, five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) shall be
21 allocated to early intervention providers in response to a decline in enrollment for early
22 intervention, family home visiting, and screening programs as follows: two million six hundred
23 thousand dollars (\$2,600,000) for stabilization grant funding to be used for operating costs such as
24 staffing, outreach activities and professional development and to address a loss of revenue and two
25 million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$2,900,000) for performance bonuses if certain metrics
26 established by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services are met by the providers, which
27 may include staff retention, expanding access to services and reducing disparities in coverage.

28 (c) Department of Children, Youth, and Families \$12,500,000

29 This amount shall be allocated to support workforce stabilization supplemental wage
30 payments up to seven hundred dollars (\$700) monthly to eligible direct care and supporting care
31 staff of contracted service providers. To be eligible, an employee must earn an annual salary of less
32 than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000). Funding may be used to provide hiring incentives of
33 up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per employee, provided that employers may not disburse
34 funding obligated through hiring incentives until ninety (90) days of work has been completed by

1 the employee and the employee earns an annual salary of less than seventy-five thousand dollars
2 (\$75,000). The Director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families shall provide to the
3 Speaker of the House and President of the Senate at least every sixty (60) days beginning January
4 15, 2022, a report that includes the amount of funding disbursed to date, progress in improving
5 staffing levels of any provider receiving these funds, including the number of new hires and staff
6 attrition, and changes in placement availability of any provider receiving these funds.

7 (d) Department of Human Services \$19,000,000

8 (1) Of this amount, eighteen million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$18,700,000) shall
9 be allocated to pay one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) semiannual retention bonuses for
10 direct care staff at childcare centers and licensed family providers in response to pandemic-related
11 staffing shortages.

12 (2) A total of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) shall be reserved for family
13 childcare incentive start up and technical assistance grants. The Director of the Department of
14 Human Services and the Director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families may waive
15 any fees otherwise assessed upon childcare provider applicants who have been awarded the family
16 childcare provider incentive grant.

17 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 MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FISCAL YEAR
2022

- 1 This act would appropriate federal funds awarded to Rhode Island as part of the State Fiscal
- 2 Recovery Fund (SFRF) by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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