

2022 -- H 7611 SUBSTITUTE A

LC005190/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- 2021 ACT ON CLIMATE

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Alzate, Bennett, Solomon, Cortvriend, Ranglin-Vassell, Giraldo, Abney, Donovan, and Speakman

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-6.2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-6.2 entitled "2021 Act
2 on Climate" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-6.2-4. Advisory board established -- Members.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island executive climate change coordinating council advisory board is
5 hereby established. The advisory board shall have ~~thirteen (13)~~ fourteen (14) members. ~~Five (5)~~
6 Six (6) members shall be appointed by the governor, four (4) of whom shall be representatives of
7 city or town government, at least one of whom shall be from a city with a population of over fifty
8 thousand (50,000); and one of whom shall be of a town with a population of less than fifty thousand
9 (50,000), ~~and~~ one of whom shall be from an organization representing or serving low-income
10 and/or minority communities, and one member of the public with expertise in, and representing the
11 interests of, environmental justice.

12 Four (4) members shall be appointed by the president of the senate, who shall give due
13 consideration to appointing persons with expertise in economic policy and/or workforce
14 development; protection of natural and cultural resources management; energy planning and
15 development; and engineering and design. Four (4) members shall be appointed by the speaker of
16 the house, who shall give due consideration to appointing persons with expertise in education;
17 public health and safety; housing; or from organizations representing or serving youth or the
18 elderly.

19 (b) The members of the advisory board shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years;

1 provided, however, that, with regard to the initial appointments, four (4) members shall be
2 appointed for terms of one year; ~~four (4)~~ five (5) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2)
3 years; and five (5) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Members may be
4 reappointed, and their appointments shall continue until their successors are appointed. The term
5 of a member representing a city or town shall end when the member no longer holds an elected or
6 appointed position in the city or town he or she was representing. A vacancy other than by
7 expiration shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment, but only for the unexpired
8 portion of the term.

9 (c) The members of the advisory board shall receive no compensation.

10 (d) The governor shall appoint a chairperson; a vice-chairperson and secretary shall be
11 elected annually by the advisory board members. All officers of the advisory board shall serve until
12 their successors have been duly appointed or elected.

13 (e) The advisory board shall meet at least quarterly or at the call of the chairperson of the
14 council. The chairperson of the council, or his or her designee, shall be present for all advisory
15 board meetings.

16 (f) The advisory board shall have the following purposes and duties:

17 (1) Advise the council on all matters pertaining to the duties and powers of the council,
18 including evaluating and making recommendations regarding plans, programs, and strategies
19 relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

20 (2) Assist the council in improving public access to, and understanding of, the best
21 available scientific, technical, and other information about climate change, mitigation, adaptation,
22 etc., so as to build public support for, and participation in, initiatives to make communities more
23 resilient;

24 (3) Serve as a conduit for communicating information from the council to communities and
25 constituencies, as well as vice versa, for input from the community level to the council;

26 (4) Assist the council in meeting its own transparency and accountability obligations;

27 (5) Report to the council at each regular council meeting; and

28 (6) Prepare an annual report, to be included in the annual report of the council, that
29 specifically addresses the state of public awareness and engagement; the effectiveness of
30 mitigation, adaptation and public information programs from the community perspective; the
31 ability of the council to attain its goals and objectives, including effective interagency coordination
32 and public-private partnerships; and actions that would further the purposes of the council and this
33 legislation.

34 (g) For purposes of this section, "environmental justice" means the fair treatment and

1 [meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, English proficiency](#)
2 [or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental](#)
3 [laws, regulations and policies.](#)

4 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 -- 2021 ACT ON CLIMATE

1 This act would provide for the appointment by the governor of an additional member to
2 the climate change coordinating council advisory board. The appointment would consist of a
3 member of the public with expertise in environmental justice.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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