STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HURRICANE, STORM AND FLOOD STANDARDS

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Ruggerio, Raptakis, Archambault, F Lombardi, Ciccone, and Miller
Date Introduced: February 15, 2022
Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 23-27.3-100.1.5.5 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-27.3 entitled “State Building Code” is hereby amended to read as follows:

23-27.3-100.1.5.5. Hurricane, storm, and flood standards.

The state building code standards committee has the authority in consultation with the building code commissioner, to adopt, maintain, amend, and repeal code provisions, which shall be reasonably consistent with recognized and accepted standards and codes, including for existing buildings, for storm and flood resistance. Such code provisions shall, to the extent reasonable and feasible, take into account climatic changes and potential climatic changes and sea level rise and inundation areas below dams classified by the department of environmental management as high hazard, significant hazard, or low hazard. Flood velocity zones may incorporate freeboard calculations adopted by the Coastal Resources Management Council pursuant to its power to formulate standards under the provisions of § 46-23-6.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HURRICANE, STORM AND FLOOD
STANDARDS

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This act would amend dam safety standards to require the state building code standards
committee to take into account climate change effect on inundation areas below dams classified as
high, significant, or low hazard.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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