

**2013 -- S 0406 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC01101/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

A N A C T

RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - REDUCE  
MARINE DEBRIS AND PRESERVE LANDFILL SPACE WHILE INCREASING THE  
RECYCLING OF POST-CONSUMER PACKAGING MATERIAL

Introduced By: Senators Cool Rumsey, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Lombardo, and Goldin

Date Introduced: February 26, 2013

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 42-17.1 of the General Laws entitled "Department of  
2 Environmental Management" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **42-17.1-46. Marine debris composition study. -- (a) The general assembly hereby finds**  
4 **and declares:**

5           (1) The state of Rhode Island and its cities and towns play an integral role in protecting  
6 the coast and ocean waters of this state.

7           (2) There is a need to reduce the amount of waste and litter at our beaches, on our coasts,  
8 in the bay, in our storm drains, and in the surrounding ocean.

9           (3) Plastic bags can cause multiple problems in the marine environment, including their  
10 negative impact to wildlife, damage to marine craft, and presence in storm drains, rivers, and  
11 streams that flow into the bay.

12           (4) A marine debris composition study is a method to determine the types of materials  
13 being discarded along our coasts and in what proportion.

14           (5) Information obtained from completing a marine debris composition study will assist  
15 state and municipal policy makers in identifying marine debris waste management options  
16 and in more effectively targeting existing and future programs to address marine debris.

17           (b) No later than June 1, 2014, the director of the department of environmental  
18 management, in consultation with the coastal resources management council, shall complete a

1 marine debris composition study which shall include information on the types and amounts of  
2 materials, including, but not limited to, plastic bags, that end up as marine debris along the Rhode  
3 Island coast and shall provide copies of the study to the governor and the general assembly. The  
4 composition study may utilize existing data compiled by environmental nonprofit corporations,  
5 state agencies and other entities.

6 (c) The department of environmental management and the coastal resources management  
7 council may accept grants and may enter into working relationships with entities for the purpose  
8 of funding the study.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would require the director of the department of environmental management, in  
2           consultation with the coastal resources management council, to complete a marine debris  
3           composition study no later than June 1, 2014.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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