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LC000289/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT THE
PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Introduced By: Senators Miller, DiMario, Valverde, Kallman, Murray, and Lauria

Date Introduced: January 18, 2023

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels into the atmosphere have
2 changed the earth's climate leading to surface temperature rise; and

3 WHEREAS, Plastic pollution is dangerous to the health of our oceans, harms our marine
4 species, contributes to climate change, and is a major component of unsightly litter both on our
5 lands and in our waters; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is on a path towards achieving net-zero carbon emission and
7 reducing our plastic refuse; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island State agencies must support the transition by adopting
9 renewable technologies and policies that support our goals to preserve and protect the
10 environment; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests
12 the Department of Administration (DOA) to undertake a review and analysis of state purchasing
13 practices that support reducing carbon emissions and refuse among our state agencies including:

- 14 • A summary of current purchasing practices to reduce refuse and carbon emissions;
15 • A list of the total number of electric vehicles in the state fleet and green energy certified
16 state-owned buildings; and
17 • A cost-benefit analysis focused on transitioning state agencies to electric vehicles and
18 renewable energy technology; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate, in order to reduce our carbon and refuse footprint, hereby

1 requests the DOA to report on the feasibility for procuring the following:

2 1. Transitioning the state vehicle fleet, through lease or purchase, to alternative fueled
3 vehicles and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure including:

- 4 • Alternative fueled vehicles including light and medium duty passenger vehicles, light and
5 heavy-duty vehicles, buses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, and scooters; and
- 6 • If a vehicle cannot be replaced due to limited supply or inadequate replacement the state
7 shall consider the purchase or lease of hybrid vehicles;

8 2. Renewable and energy efficient technologies for use at state properties to improve
9 existing infrastructure, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, including, but
10 not limited to:

- 11 • Air conditioning systems, ventilation systems, heating systems, domestic hot water
12 heating systems, compressed air systems, distribution systems, lighting systems, power
13 systems, and controls of the building;

14 3. Replacement of plasticware with biodegradable and compostable cutlery, straws,
15 drinkware, and napkins at state facilities with dining accommodations;

16 4. Phasing out single-use plastic water bottles by creating access to potable water through
17 bottle fill stations or other available measures; and

18 5. Providing compostable bins at state facilities and contracting with a compost disposal
19 service; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests DOA to develop guidelines for vendor
21 contracts that limit or prohibit the purchase or use of Styrofoam, plasticware, and single-use
22 plastic water bottles; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests the DOA to provide a timeframe to
24 enter into purchase agreements that support the transition to green technology and practices, and
25 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate on or before February 1, 2024; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Department of
29 Administration.

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