

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO THE OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES TO FUND A REBATE PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PASSAGE OF AN ELIGIBLE ORDINANCE THAT WOULD BAN THE USE OF GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, Euer, and Lauria

Date Introduced: March 07, 2023

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, Gas powered leaf blowers emit high rates of pollution such as
2 formaldehyde, benzene, fine particulate matter and smog forming chemicals which can cause
3 dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, cancer and dementia; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Gas powered leaf blowers generate noise at a decibel level
5 capable of causing hearing loss in a short amount of time; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's 2022-23 fiscal year ended with a surplus of more than \$600
7 million; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of the surplus funds in the treasury
9 not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2022-2023, the sum of one million dollars
10 (\$1,000,000) to The Office of Energy Resources to provide a maximum of \$250,000 per city or
11 town, to fund a rebate program in conjunction with the passage of an eligible ordinance that
12 would ban the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and said refund would be implemented
13 within two years of passage of the ban, with any unused funds returned to the state general fund
14 after one year of implementation of the program and subject to refund to the State if the ordinance
15 is repealed; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the
16 general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time

1 required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO THE OFFICE OF ENERGY
RESOURCES TO FUND A REBATE PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PASSAGE
OF AN ELIGIBLE ORDINANCE THAT WOULD BAN THE USE OF GASOLINE-
POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

- 1 This joint resolution would authorize an appropriation out of the 2022-2023 budget
- 2 surplus of \$1,000,000 to fund a rebate program in conjunction with the passage of an eligible
- 3 ordinance that would ban the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

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