

**2025 -- S 0868**

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LC002574  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

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**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND  
EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lawson, Tikoian, DiMario, Britto, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 21, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

1           WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island, known as The Ocean State, boasts nearly 400  
2 miles of coastline and is home to a wide range of maritime industries, and the fostering and  
3 maintenance of a highly integrated maritime economy in Rhode Island, including manufacturing  
4 and research, serves to reinforce these competitive advantages of The Ocean State; and

5           WHEREAS, The mission of 401 Tech Bridge is to accelerate the development and  
6 commercialization of dual use, innovative technologies within Rhode Island's Blue Economy,  
7 serving as a collaborator to bring together industry leaders, government agencies, and academic  
8 institutions to bridge research and development gaps and connect innovators with commercial  
9 opportunities; and

10           WHEREAS, 401 Tech Bridge fosters cross-sector partnerships through state of the art  
11 facilities and programs that drive economic growth and technological advancement in maritime  
12 and defense industries; and

13           WHEREAS, Seaglidors are a nascent technology being developed in Rhode Island,  
14 integral to its Blue Economy, designed to offer an all-electric, passenger-carrying, wing-in-  
15 ground-effect vehicle built to service coastal routes, building on real-world-proven technology;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Seaglidors are positioned to help support the sustainability and economic  
18 goals of Rhode Island, including eliminating thousands of tons of carbon and GHG emissions  
19 yearly, expanding business and job training opportunities for Rhode Island's local economy,

1 bolstering Rhode Island's Blue Economy, increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and  
2 other east coast hubs, and providing a sustainable travel option for environmentally conscious  
3 residents, visitors, and tourists of Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, Seaglidery are positioned to help provide Rhode Island residents with  
5 business and workforce opportunities, as well as access to affordable travel, lower cargo costs,  
6 quicker emergency response, and reduced highway congestion, all without any carbon emissions;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Seaglider Initiative (RISI) is a coalition of local Rhode  
9 Island government, business, and community stakeholders that aim to assist with the awareness,  
10 understanding, and adoption of seaglidery in Rhode Island, including through a core value of  
11 involving local Rhode Island voices and ensuring that the benefits of seaglidery are shared by  
12 Rhode Islanders and the entire Rhode Island ecosystem; and

13 WHEREAS, 401 Tech Bridge is uniquely positioned to support Rhode Island's Blue  
14 Economy, including the development, manufacturing, and use of seaglidery, and 401 Tech Bridge  
15 is committed to collaborating with RISI to help study and explore the benefits of seaglidery in  
16 Rhode Island; now therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated to 401 Tech Bridge the sum of one  
18 million dollars (\$1,000,000) to study and explore seaglidery in Rhode Island, in conjunction with  
19 RISI, including conducting a seaglider feasibility study to understand, assess, and verify the use  
20 and operation of seaglidery in Rhode Island in order to position Rhode Island to realize the  
21 benefits of eliminating thousands of tons of carbon and GHG emissions yearly, expanding  
22 business and job training opportunities for Rhode Island's local economy, bolstering Rhode  
23 Island's Blue Economy, increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and other east coast  
24 hubs, and providing a sustainable travel option for environmentally conscious residents, visitors,  
25 and tourists of Rhode Island; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw  
26 their orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be  
27 from time to time be required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND  
EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND

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- 1 This resolution would make an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to 401 Tech Bridge to study
- 2 and explore seaglidens.

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