

2025 -- S 0868 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002574/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 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, Seagliders 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, Seagliders 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 two
18 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to study and explore seaglidery in Rhode Island, in
19 conjunction with RISI, including conducting a seaglider feasibility study to understand, assess,
20 and verify the use and operation of seaglidery in Rhode Island in order to position Rhode Island to
21 realize the benefits of eliminating thousands of tons of carbon and GHG emissions yearly,
22 expanding business and job training opportunities for Rhode Island's local economy, bolstering
23 Rhode Island's Blue Economy, increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and other east
24 coast hubs, and providing a sustainable travel option for environmentally conscious residents,
25 visitors, and tourists of Rhode Island; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to
26 draw their orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may
27 be from time to time be required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

=====
LC002574/SUB A
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND
EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND

- 1
- This resolution would make an appropriation of \$250,000 to 401 Tech Bridge to study
- 2
- and explore seaglidors.

=====
LC002574/SUB A
=====