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LC004753
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL

Introduced By: Senators Valverde, Kallman, Lauria, Euer, DiPalma, McKenney,
DiMario, Gu, Bell, and Mack
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-18.9-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-18.9 entitled "Refuse
2 Disposal" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-18.9-17. Food waste ban.**

4 (a) On and after January 1, 2016, each covered entity and each covered educational
5 institution shall ensure that the organic-waste materials that are generated by the covered entity or
6 at the covered educational facility are recycled at an authorized composting facility or anaerobic
7 digestion facility or by another authorized recycling method if:

8 (1) The covered entity or covered educational facility generates not less than one hundred
9 four (104) tons per year of organic-waste material; and

10 (2) The covered entity or covered educational facility is located not more than fifteen (15)
11 miles from an authorized composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility with available capacity
12 to accept such material.

13 (b) On and after January 1, 2018, each covered educational institution shall ensure that the
14 organic-waste materials that are generated at the covered educational facility are recycled at an
15 authorized composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility or by another authorized recycling
16 method if:

17 (1) The covered educational facility generates not less than fifty-two (52) tons per year of
18 organic-waste material; and

19 (2) The covered entity or covered educational facility is located not more than fifteen (15)

1 miles from an authorized composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility with available capacity
2 to accept such material.

3 (c) The director shall grant a waiver of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) upon a
4 showing that the tipping fee charged by the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation for non-
5 contract commercial sector waste is less than the fee charged for organic-waste material by each
6 composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility located within fifteen (15) miles of the covered
7 entity's location.

8 (d) On and after January 1, 2023, each educational entity (as defined in ~~§ 16-110-1~~ § 16-
9 111-1) shall ensure that the organic-waste materials that are generated by the educational entity are
10 recycled at an authorized composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility or by another
11 authorized recycling method if:

12 (1) The educational entity generates not less than thirty (30) tons per year of organic-waste
13 material; and

14 (2) The educational entity is located not more than fifteen (15) miles from an authorized
15 composting facility or anaerobic digestion facility with available capacity to accept such material.

16 (e) The department of environmental management is hereby authorized to issue and enforce
17 rules and regulations that are not inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 18.9 of this title, or the
18 rules and regulations issued under chapter 18.9 of this title, in order to implement and enforce the
19 provisions of the food waste ban.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL

- 1 This act would authorize the department of environmental management to issue and
- 2 enforce rules and regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of the food waste ban.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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