

1 **ARTICLE 9**

2 **RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

3 It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

4 SECTION 1. Section 42-64.19-3 in Chapter 42-64.19 entitled "Executive Office of  
5 Commerce" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **42-64.19-3. Executive Office of Commerce.**

7 (a) There is hereby established within the executive branch of state government an  
8 executive office of commerce effective February 1, 2015, to serve as the principal agency of the  
9 executive branch of state government for managing the promotion of commerce and the economy  
10 within the state and shall have the following powers and duties in accordance with the following  
11 schedule:

12 (1) On or about February 1, 2015, to operate functions from the department of business  
13 regulation;

14 (2) On or about April 1, 2015, to operate various divisions and functions from the  
15 department of administration;

16 (3) On or before September 1, 2015, to provide to the Senate and the House of  
17 Representatives a comprehensive study and review of the roles, functions, and programs of the  
18 department of administration and the department of labor and training to devise recommendations  
19 and a business plan for the integration of these entities with the office of the secretary of commerce.  
20 The governor may include such recommendations in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal; and

21 (4) On or before July 1, 2021, to provide for the hiring of a deputy secretary of commerce  
22 and housing who shall report directly to the secretary of commerce. The deputy secretary of  
23 commerce and housing shall:

24 (i) Prior to hiring, have completed and earned a minimum of a master's graduate degree in  
25 the field of urban planning, economics, or a related field of study or possess a juris doctor law  
26 degree. Preference shall be provided to candidates having earned an advanced degree consisting of  
27 an L.L.M. law degree or Ph.D in urban planning or economics. Qualified candidates must have  
28 documented five (5) years' full-time experience employed in the administration of housing policy  
29 and/or development;

1 (ii) Be responsible for overseeing all housing initiatives in the state of Rhode Island and  
2 developing a housing plan, including, but not limited to, the development of affordable housing  
3 opportunities to assist in building strong community efforts and revitalizing neighborhoods;

4 (iii) Coordinate with all agencies directly related to any housing initiatives including, but  
5 not limited to, the Rhode Island housing and mortgage finance corporation, coastal resources  
6 management council (CRMC), and state departments including, but not limited to: the department  
7 of environmental management (DEM), the department of business regulation (DBR), the  
8 department of transportation (DOT) and statewide planning; and

9 (iv) Coordinate with the housing resources commission to formulate an integrated housing  
10 report to include findings and recommendations to the governor, speaker of the house, senate  
11 president, each chamber's finance committee, and any committee whose purview is reasonably  
12 related to, including, but not limited to, issues of housing, municipal government, and health on or  
13 before December 31, 2021, and annually thereafter which report shall include, but not be limited  
14 to, the following:

15 (A) The total number of housing units in the state with per community counts, including  
16 the number of Americans with Disabilities Act compliant special needs units;

17 (B) The occupancy and vacancy rate of the units referenced in subsection (a)(4)(iv)(A);

18 (C) The change in the number of units referenced in subsection (a)(4)(iv)(A), for each of  
19 the prior three (3) years in figures and as a percentage;

20 (D) The number of net new units in development and number of units completed since the  
21 prior report;

22 (E) For each municipality the number of single-family, two-family (2), and three-family  
23 (3) units, and multi-unit housing delineated sufficiently to provide the lay reader a useful  
24 description of current conditions, including a statewide sum of each unit type;

25 (F) The total number of units by income type;

26 (G) A projection of the number of status quo units;

27 (H) A projection of the number of units required to meet housing formation trends;

28 (I) A comparison of regional and other similarly situated state funding sources that support  
29 housing development including a percentage of private, federal, and public support;

30 (J) A reporting of unit types by number of bedrooms for rental properties including an  
31 accounting of all:

32 (I) Single-family units;

33 (II) Accessory dwelling units;

34 (III) Two-family (2) units;

- 1 (IV) Three-family (3) units;
- 2 (V) Multi-unit sufficiently delineated units;
- 3 (VI) Mixed use sufficiently delineated units; and
- 4 (VII) Occupancy and vacancy rates for the prior three (3) years;
- 5 (K) A reporting of unit types by ownership including an accounting of all:
- 6 (I) Single-family units;
- 7 (II) Accessory dwelling units;
- 8 (III) Two-family (2) units;
- 9 (IV) Three-family (3) units;
- 10 (V) Multi-unit sufficiently delineated units;
- 11 (VI) Mixed use sufficiently delineated units; and
- 12 (VII) Occupancy and vacancy rates for the prior three (3) years;
- 13 (L) A reporting of the number of applications submitted or filed for each community
- 14 according to unit type and an accounting of action taken with respect to each application to include,
- 15 approved, denied, appealed, approved upon appeal, and if approved, the justification for each
- 16 approval;
- 17 (M) A reporting of permits for each community according to affordability level that were
- 18 sought, approved, denied, appealed, approved upon appeal, and if approved, the justification for
- 19 each approval;
- 20 (N) A reporting of affordability by municipality that shall include the following:
- 21 (I) The percent and number of units of extremely low-, very low-, low-, moderate-, fair-
- 22 market rate, and above-market-rate units; including the average and median costs of those units;
- 23 (II) The percent and number of units of extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-
- 24 income housing units required to satisfy the ten percent (10%) requirement pursuant to chapter 24
- 25 of title 45; including the average and median costs of those units;
- 26 (III) The percent and number of units for the affordability levels above moderate-income
- 27 housing, including a comparison to fair-market rent and fair-market homeownership; including the
- 28 average and median costs of those units;
- 29 (IV) The percentage of cost burden by municipality with population equivalent;
- 30 (V) The percentage and number of home financing sources, including all private, federal,
- 31 state, or other public support; and
- 32 (VI) The cost growth for each of the previous five (5) years by unit type at each
- 33 affordability level, by unit type;

1 (O) A reporting of municipal healthy housing stock by unit type and number of bedrooms  
2 and providing an assessment of the state's existing housing stock and enumerating any risks to the  
3 public health from that housing stock, including, but not limited to: the presence of lead, mold, safe  
4 drinking water, disease vectors (insects and vermin), and other conditions that are an identifiable  
5 health detriment. Additionally, the report shall provide the percentage of the prevalence of health  
6 risks by age of the stock for each community by unit type and number of bedrooms; and

7 (P) A recommendation shall be included with the report required under this section that  
8 shall provide consideration to any and all populations, ethnicities, income levels, and other relevant  
9 demographic criteria determined by the deputy secretary, and with regard to any and all of the  
10 criteria enumerated elsewhere in the report separately or in combination, provide recommendations  
11 to resolve any issues that provide an impediment to the development of housing, including specific  
12 data and evidence in support of the recommendation. All data and methodologies used to present  
13 evidence are subject to review and approval of the chief of revenue analysis, and that approval shall  
14 include an attestation of approval by the chief to be included in the report.

15 (b) In this capacity, the office shall:

16 (1) Lead or assist state departments and coordinate business permitting processes in order  
17 to:

18 (i) Improve the economy, efficiency, coordination, and quality of the business climate in  
19 the state;

20 (ii) Design strategies and implement best practices that foster economic development and  
21 growth of the state's economy;

22 (iii) Maximize and leverage funds from all available public and private sources, including  
23 federal financial participation, grants, and awards;

24 (iv) Increase public confidence by conducting customer centric operations whereby  
25 commercial enterprise are supported and provided programs and services that will grow and nurture  
26 the Rhode Island economy; and

27 (v) Be the state's lead agency for economic development.

28 (2) Provide oversight and coordination of all housing initiatives in the state of Rhode  
29 Island.

30 (3) Provide oversight and coordination of all broadband and digital equity initiatives in the  
31 state of Rhode Island, including, but not limited to, the following:

32 (i) Creating a statewide broadband strategic plan which shall include goals and strategies  
33 related to internet access in the state. Such a plan shall include, but not be limited to considerations  
34 such as speed, latency, affordability, access, sustainability, and digital equity and which shall be

1 submitted to the Governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the  
2 senate on or before December 31, 2022 and shall be updated every five years thereafter;

3 (ii) Coordinating with all agencies and quasi-agencies of the state relating to any broadband  
4 initiative, including, but not limited to the Rhode Island department of business regulation, Rhode  
5 Island division of information and technology, Rhode Island emergency management agency,  
6 Rhode Island infrastructure bank, the division of public utilities and carriers, the department of  
7 education, the department of environmental management, RI housing, the office of library and  
8 information services, the department of labor and training, the division of purchasing, and the office  
9 of healthy aging;

10 (iii) Hiring a statewide broadband coordinator and supporting staff contingent on  
11 availability of funds, whether through the Rhode Island commerce corporation, department of  
12 business regulation, the executive office of commerce, or a combination, to carry out the duties  
13 herein;

14 (iv) Convening at least quarterly a broadband advisory committee, which is hereby  
15 established, and shall include no more than thirteen members. The members of the broadband  
16 advisory committee shall be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be appointed in  
17 consultation with the speaker of the house and one of whom shall be appointed in consultation with  
18 the president of the senate. The broadband advisory committee shall be subject to the provisions of  
19 R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-1, et seq. and shall advise the executive office of commerce on broadband  
20 implementation efforts undertaken by the agency including but not limited to the development of a  
21 state strategic plan and broadband-related investment strategies. The broadband advisory  
22 committee will additionally invite telecommunications/IT experts and broadband stakeholders to  
23 inform the committee.

24 (v) Creating grant and other programs to allow localities, community anchor institutions,  
25 and public-private partnerships to invest in both middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure  
26 improvements. The executive office of commerce may appoint any state agency or quasi-state  
27 agency to administer such program or programs. The executive office of commerce or any state  
28 agency or quasi-state agency charged with administering such grant and other programs is  
29 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to § 42-35-3 of the State's general laws  
30 that set forth the programs' goals, investment criteria, principles, and parameters. The executive  
31 office of commerce or any state agency or quasi-state agency charged with administering such grant  
32 and other programs is authorized to create funds to hold any federal or state appropriation for such  
33 grant or other program. Such funds shall be established consistent with federal or state law that

1 makes the appropriation. Any such funds shall be exempt from attachment, levy, or any other  
2 process at law or in equity.

3 (vi) Creating or otherwise administering programs, projects, initiatives, or mapping efforts  
4 to further the investment in and development of broadband and digital equity in the State.

5 (c) The office shall include the office of regulatory reform and other administration  
6 functions that promote, enhance, or regulate various service and functions in order to promote the  
7 reform and improvement of the regulatory function of the state.

8 SECTION 2. Sections 42-64.20-5 and 42-64.20-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-  
9 64.20 entitled "Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **42-64.20-5. Tax credits.**

11 (a) An applicant meeting the requirements of this chapter may be allowed a credit as set  
12 forth hereinafter against taxes imposed upon such person under applicable provisions of title 44 of  
13 the general laws for a qualified development project.

14 (b) To be eligible as a qualified development project entitled to tax credits, an applicant's  
15 chief executive officer or equivalent officer shall demonstrate to the commerce corporation, at the  
16 time of application, that:

17 (1) The applicant has committed a capital investment or owner equity of not less than  
18 twenty percent (20%) of the total project cost;

19 (2) There is a project financing gap in which after taking into account all available private  
20 and public funding sources, the project is not likely to be accomplished by private enterprise  
21 without the tax credits described in this chapter; and

22 (3) The project fulfills the state's policy and planning objectives and priorities in that:

23 (i) The applicant will, at the discretion of the commerce corporation, obtain a tax  
24 stabilization agreement from the municipality in which the real estate project is located on such  
25 terms as the commerce corporation deems acceptable;

26 (ii) It (A) Is a commercial development consisting of at least 25,000 square feet occupied  
27 by at least one business employing at least 25 full-time employees after construction or such  
28 additional full-time employees as the commerce corporation may determine; (B) Is a multi-family  
29 residential development in a new, adaptive reuse, certified historic structure, or recognized  
30 historical structure consisting of at least 20,000 square feet and having at least 20 residential units  
31 in a hope community; or (C) Is a mixed-use development in a new, adaptive reuse, certified historic  
32 structure, or recognized historical structure consisting of at least 25,000 square feet occupied by at  
33 least one business, subject to further definition through rules and regulations promulgated by the  
34 commerce corporation; and

1 (iii) Involves a total project cost of not less than \$ 5,000,000, except for a qualified  
2 development project located in a hope community or redevelopment area designated under § 45-  
3 32-4 in which event the commerce corporation shall have the discretion to modify the minimum  
4 project cost requirement.

5 (c) The commerce corporation shall develop separate, streamlined application processes  
6 for the issuance of rebuild RI tax credits for each of the following:

- 7 (1) Qualified development projects that involve certified historic structures;
- 8 (2) Qualified development projects that involve recognized historical structures;
- 9 (3) Qualified development projects that involve at least one manufacturer; and
- 10 (4) Qualified development projects that include affordable housing or workforce housing.

11 (d) Applications made for a historic structure or recognized historic structure tax credit  
12 under chapter 33.6 of title 44 shall be considered for tax credits under this chapter. The division of  
13 taxation, at the expense of the commerce corporation, shall provide communications from the  
14 commerce corporation to those who have applied for and are in the queue awaiting the offer of tax  
15 credits pursuant to chapter 33.6 of title 44 regarding their potential eligibility for the rebuild RI tax  
16 credit program.

17 (e) Applicants (1) Who have received the notice referenced in subsection (d) above and  
18 who may be eligible for a tax credit pursuant to chapter 33.6 of title 44, (2) Whose application  
19 involves a certified historic structure or recognized historical structure, or (3) Whose project is  
20 occupied by at least one manufacturer shall be exempt from the requirements of subsections  
21 (b)(3)(ii) and (b)(3)(iii). The following procedure shall apply to such applicants:

22 (i) The division of taxation shall remain responsible for determining the eligibility of an  
23 applicant for tax credits awarded under chapter 33.6 of title 44;

24 (ii) The commerce corporation shall retain sole authority for determining the eligibility of  
25 an applicant for tax credits awarded under this chapter; and

26 (iii) The commerce corporation shall not award in excess of fifteen percent (15%) of the  
27 annual amount authorized in any fiscal year to applicants seeking tax credits pursuant to this  
28 subsection (e).

29 (f) **Maximum project credit.**

30 (1) For qualified development projects, the maximum tax credit allowed under this chapter  
31 shall be the lesser of (i) Thirty percent (30%) of the total project cost; or (ii) The amount needed to  
32 close a project financing gap (after taking into account all other private and public funding sources  
33 available to the project), as determined by the commerce corporation.

1           (2) The credit allowed pursuant to this chapter, inclusive of any sales and use tax  
2 exemptions allowed pursuant to this chapter, shall not exceed fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000)  
3 for any qualified development project under this chapter; except as provided in subsection (f)(3) of  
4 this section; provided however, any qualified development project that exceeds the project cap upon  
5 passage of this act shall be deemed not to exceed the cap, shall not be reduced, nor shall it be further  
6 increased. No building or qualified development project to be completed in phases or in multiple  
7 projects shall exceed the maximum project credit of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for all  
8 phases or projects involved in the rehabilitation of the building. Provided, however, that for  
9 purposes of this subsection and no more than once in a given fiscal year, the commerce corporation  
10 may consider the development of land and buildings by a developer on the "I-195 land" as defined  
11 in § 42-64.24-3(6) as a separate, qualified development project from a qualified development  
12 project by a tenant or owner of a commercial condominium or similar legal interest including  
13 leasehold improvement, fit out, and capital investment. Such qualified development project by a  
14 tenant or owner of a commercial condominium or similar legal interest on the I-195 land may be  
15 exempted from subsection (f)(1)(i) of this section.

16           (3) The credit allowed pursuant to this chapter, inclusive of any sales and use tax  
17 exemptions allowed pursuant to this chapter, shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars  
18 (\$25,000,000) for the project for which the I-195 redevelopment district was authorized to enter  
19 into a purchase and sale agreement for parcels 42 and P4 on December 19, 2018, provided that  
20 project is approved for credits pursuant to this chapter by the commerce corporation.

21           (g) Credits available under this chapter shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the project  
22 cost, provided, however, that the applicant shall be eligible for additional tax credits of not more  
23 than ten percent (10%) of the project cost, if the qualified development project meets any of the  
24 following criteria or other additional criteria determined by the commerce corporation from time  
25 to time in response to evolving economic or market conditions:

26           (1) The project includes adaptive reuse or development of a recognized historical structure;

27           (2) The project is undertaken by or for a targeted industry;

28           (3) The project is located in a transit-oriented development area;

29           (4) The project includes residential development of which at least twenty percent (20%) of  
30 the residential units are designated as affordable housing or workforce housing;

31           (5) The project includes the adaptive reuse of property subject to the requirements of the  
32 industrial property remediation and reuse act, § 23-19.14-1 et seq.; or



1 (6) The project includes commercial facilities constructed in accordance with the minimum  
2 environmental and sustainability standards, as certified by the commerce corporation pursuant to  
3 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or other equivalent standards.

4 (h) **Maximum aggregate credits.** The aggregate sum authorized pursuant to this chapter,  
5 inclusive of any sales and use tax exemptions allowed pursuant to this chapter, shall not exceed  
6 ~~two hundred ten million dollars (\$210,000,000)~~ two hundred twenty five million dollars  
7 (\$225,000,000), excluding any tax credits allowed pursuant to subsection (f)(3) of this section.

8 (i) Tax credits shall not be allowed under this chapter prior to the taxable year in which the  
9 project is placed in service.

10 (j) The amount of a tax credit allowed under this chapter shall be allowable to the taxpayer  
11 in up to five, annual increments; no more than thirty percent (30%) and no less than fifteen percent  
12 (15%) of the total credits allowed to a taxpayer under this chapter may be allowable for any taxable  
13 year.

14 (k) If the portion of the tax credit allowed under this chapter exceeds the taxpayer's total  
15 tax liability for the year in which the relevant portion of the credit is allowed, the amount that  
16 exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability may be carried forward for credit against the taxes imposed for  
17 the succeeding four (4) years, or until the full credit is used, whichever occurs first. Credits allowed  
18 to a partnership, a limited-liability company taxed as a partnership, or multiple owners of property  
19 shall be passed through to the persons designated as partners, members, or owners respectively pro  
20 rata or pursuant to an executed agreement among persons designated as partners, members, or  
21 owners documenting an alternate distribution method without regard to their sharing of other tax  
22 or economic attributes of such entity.

23 (l) The commerce corporation, in consultation with the division of taxation, shall establish,  
24 by regulation, the process for the assignment, transfer, or conveyance of tax credits.

25 (m) For purposes of this chapter, any assignment or sales proceeds received by the taxpayer  
26 for its assignment or sale of the tax credits allowed pursuant to this section shall be exempt from  
27 taxation under title 44. If a tax credit is subsequently revoked or adjusted, the seller's tax calculation  
28 for the year of revocation or adjustment shall be increased by the total amount of the sales proceeds,  
29 without proration, as a modification under chapter 30 of title 44. In the event that the seller is not a  
30 natural person, the seller's tax calculation under chapter 11, 13, 14, or 17 of title 44, as applicable,  
31 for the year of revocation, or adjustment, shall be increased by including the total amount of the  
32 sales proceeds without proration.

33 (n) The tax credit allowed under this chapter may be used as a credit against corporate  
34 income taxes imposed under chapter 11, 13, 14, or 17, of title 44, or may be used as a credit against

1 personal income taxes imposed under chapter 30 of title 44 for owners of pass-through entities such  
2 as a partnership, a limited-liability company taxed as a partnership, or multiple owners of property.

3 (o) In the case of a corporation, this credit is only allowed against the tax of a corporation  
4 included in a consolidated return that qualifies for the credit and not against the tax of other  
5 corporations that may join in the filing of a consolidated tax return.

6 (p) Upon request of a taxpayer and subject to annual appropriation, the state shall redeem  
7 this credit, in whole or in part, for ninety percent (90%) of the value of the tax credit. The division  
8 of taxation, in consultation with the commerce corporation, shall establish by regulation a  
9 redemption process for tax credits.

10 (q) Projects eligible to receive a tax credit under this chapter may, at the discretion of the  
11 commerce corporation, be exempt from sales and use taxes imposed on the purchase of the  
12 following classes of personal property only to the extent utilized directly and exclusively in the  
13 project: (1) Furniture, fixtures, and equipment, except automobiles, trucks, or other motor vehicles;  
14 or (2) Other materials, including construction materials and supplies, that are depreciable and have  
15 a useful life of one year or more and are essential to the project.

16 (r) The commerce corporation shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration  
17 and certification of additional tax credit under subsection (e), including criteria for the eligibility,  
18 evaluation, prioritization, and approval of projects that qualify for such additional tax credit.

19 (s) The commerce corporation shall not have any obligation to make any award or grant  
20 any benefits under this chapter.

21 **42-64.20-10. Sunset.**

22 No credits shall be authorized to be reserved pursuant to this chapter after December 31,  
23 ~~2022~~ 2023.

24 SECTION 3. Section 42-64.21-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.21 entitled “Rhode  
25 Island Tax Increment Financing” is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 **42-64.21-9. Sunset.**

27 The commerce corporation shall enter into no agreement under this chapter after December  
28 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

29 SECTION 4. Section 42-64.22-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.22 entitled “Tax  
30 Stabilization Incentive” is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 **42-64.22-15. Sunset.**

32 The commerce corporation shall enter into no agreement under this chapter after December  
33 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

1 SECTION 5. Section 42-64.23-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.23 entitled “First  
2 Wave Closing Fund Act” is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-64.23-8. Sunset.**

4 No financing shall be authorized to be reserved pursuant to this chapter after December 31,  
5 ~~2022~~ 2023.

6 SECTION 6. Section 42-64.24-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.24 entitled “I-195  
7 Redevelopment Project Fund Act” is hereby amended as follows:

8 **42-64.24-8. Sunset.**

9 No funding, credits, or incentives shall be authorized or authorized to be reserved pursuant  
10 to this chapter after December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

11 SECTION 7. Section 42-64.25-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.25 entitled “Small  
12 Business Assistance Program Act” is hereby amended as follows:

13 **42-64.25-14. Sunset.**

14 No grants, funding, or incentives shall be authorized pursuant to this chapter after  
15 December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

16 SECTION 8. Sections 42-64.26-3, 42-64.26-4, 42-64.26-5, and 42-64.26-12 of the  
17 General Laws in Chapter 42-64.26 entitled “Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship” are  
18 hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **42-64.26-3. Definitions.**

20 As used in this chapter:

21 (1) “Eligible graduate” means an individual who meets the eligibility requirements under  
22 this chapter.

23 (2) “Applicant” means an eligible graduate who applies for a tax credit for education loan  
24 repayment expenses under this chapter.

25 (3) “Award” means a tax credit awarded by the commerce corporation to an applicant as  
26 provided under this chapter.

27 (4) “Taxpayer” means an applicant who receives a tax credit under this chapter.

28 (5) “Commerce corporation” means the Rhode Island commerce corporation established  
29 pursuant to chapter 64 of title 42.

30 (6) “Eligible expenses” or “education loan repayment expenses” means annual higher  
31 education loan repayment expenses, including, without limitation, principal, interest and fees, as  
32 may be applicable, incurred by an eligible graduate and which the eligible graduate is obligated to  
33 repay for attendance at a postsecondary institution of higher learning.

1 (7) “Eligibility period” means a term of up to four (4) consecutive service periods  
2 beginning with the date that an eligible graduate receives initial notice of award under this chapter  
3 and expiring at the conclusion of the fourth service period after such date specified.

4 (8) “Eligibility requirements” means the following qualifications or criteria required for an  
5 applicant to claim an award under this chapter:

6 (i) That the applicant shall have graduated from an accredited two (2) year, four (4) year  
7 or graduate postsecondary institution of higher learning with an associate’s, bachelor’s, graduate,  
8 or post-graduate degree and at which the applicant incurred education loan repayment expenses;

9 (ii) That the applicant shall be a full-time employee with a Rhode Island-based employer  
10 located in this state throughout the eligibility period, whose employment is for work in one or more  
11 of the following covered fields: life, natural or environmental sciences; computer, information or  
12 software technology; advanced mathematics or finance; engineering; industrial design or other  
13 commercially related design field; or medicine or medical device technology.

14 (9) “Full-time employee” means a person who is employed by a business for consideration  
15 for a minimum of at least thirty-five (35) hours per week, or who renders any other standard of  
16 service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment, or who is employed by  
17 a professional employer organization pursuant to an employee leasing agreement between the  
18 business and the professional employer organization for a minimum of thirty-five (35) hours per  
19 week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as  
20 full-time employment, and whose wages are subject to withholding.

21 (10) “Healthcare applicant” means any applicant that meets the eligibility requirements and  
22 works as a full-time employee as a high-demand healthcare practitioner, as defined in regulations  
23 to be promulgated by the commerce corporation, in consultation with the executive office of health  
24 and human services, pursuant to chapter 35 of this title.

25 ~~(1011)~~ “Service period” means a twelve (12) month period beginning on the date that an  
26 eligible graduate receives initial notice of award under this chapter.

27 ~~(1112)~~ “Student loan” means a loan to an individual by a public authority or private lender  
28 to assist the individual to pay for tuition, books, and living expenses in order to attend a  
29 postsecondary institution of higher learning.

30 ~~(1213)~~ “Rhode Island-based employer” means (i) an employer having a principal place of  
31 business or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of its employees located in this state; or (ii) an employer  
32 registered to conduct business in this state that reported Rhode Island tax liability in the previous  
33 tax year.

1           ~~(13)~~ 14 “~~STEM/design fund fund~~” refers to the “Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship  
2 Fund” established pursuant to § 42-64.26-4(a).

3           (15) “Healthcare fund” refers to the “Healthcare Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker  
4 Fellowship Fund” established pursuant to § 42-64.26-4(b).

5           **42-64.26-4. Establishment of fund — Purposes — Composition.**

6           (a) There is hereby established the "Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship Fund" ~~(the~~  
7 ~~“fund”)~~ to be administered by the commerce corporation as set forth in this chapter.

8           (b) There is hereby established the “Healthcare Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship  
9 Fund” to be administered by the commerce corporation as set forth in this chapter.

10          ~~(b)~~ (c) The purpose of the ~~fund~~ STEM/design fund and healthcare fund is to expand  
11 employment opportunities in the state and to retain talented individuals in the state by providing  
12 tax credits in relation to education loan repayment expenses to applicants who meet the eligibility  
13 requirements under this chapter.

14          ~~(e)~~ (d) The ~~fund~~ STEM/design fund and healthcare fund shall consist of:

- 15           (1) Money appropriated in the state budget to the fund;  
16           (2) Money made available to the fund through federal programs or private contributions;  
17          and  
18           (3) Any other money made available to the fund.

19          ~~(e)~~ (e) The ~~fund~~ STEM/design fund shall be used to pay for the redemption of tax credits or  
20 reimbursement to the state for tax credits applied against ~~a taxpayer's~~ the tax liability of any non-  
21 healthcare applicant that received an award. The healthcare fund shall be used to pay for the  
22 redemption of tax credits or reimbursement to the state for tax credits applied against the tax  
23 liability of any healthcare applicant that received an award on or after July 1, 2022. The funds shall  
24 be exempt from attachment, levy or any other process at law or in equity. The director of the  
25 department of revenue shall make a requisition to the commerce corporation for funding during  
26 any fiscal year as may be necessary to pay for the redemption of tax credits presented for  
27 redemption or to reimburse the state for tax credits applied against a taxpayer's tax liability. The  
28 commerce corporation shall pay from the funds such amounts as requested by the director of the  
29 department of revenue necessary for redemption or reimbursement in relation to tax credits granted  
30 under this chapter.

31           **42-64.26-5. Administration.**

32           (a) *Application.* An eligible graduate claiming an award under this chapter shall submit to  
33 the commerce corporation an application in the manner that the commerce corporation shall  
34 prescribe.

1 (b) Upon receipt of a proper application from an applicant who meets all of the eligibility  
2 requirements, the commerce corporation shall select applicants on a competitive basis to receive  
3 credits for up to a maximum amount for each service period of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for  
4 an associate's degree holder, four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a bachelor's degree holder, and six  
5 thousand dollars (\$6,000) for a graduate or post-graduate degree holder, but not to exceed the  
6 education loan repayment expenses incurred by such taxpayer during each service period  
7 completed, for up to four (4) consecutive service periods provided that the taxpayer continues to  
8 meet the eligibility requirements throughout the eligibility period. The commerce corporation shall  
9 delegate the selection of the applicants that are to receive awards to a fellowship committee to be  
10 convened by the commerce corporation and promulgate the selection procedures the fellowship  
11 committee will use, which procedures shall require that the committee's consideration of  
12 applications be conducted on a name-blind and employer-blind basis and that the applications and  
13 other supporting documents received or reviewed by the fellowship committee shall be redacted of  
14 the applicant's name, street address, and other personally-identifying information as well as the  
15 applicant's employer's name, street address, and other employer-identifying information. The  
16 commerce corporation shall determine the composition of the fellowship committee and the  
17 selection procedures it will use in consultation with the state's chambers of commerce.  
18 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the commerce corporation shall create and establish a committee  
19 to evaluate any healthcare applicant for an award in the same manner as prescribed in this  
20 paragraph. The executive office of health and human services ("EOHHS") shall be represented on  
21 the committee and provide consultation to the commerce corporation on selection procedures.  
22 Notwithstanding EOHHS's consultation and representation in the selection of healthcare  
23 applicants, the commerce corporation shall administer all other aspects of a healthcare applicant's  
24 application, award, and certification.

25 (c) The credits awarded under this chapter shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%)  
26 of the education loan repayment expenses incurred-by such taxpayer during each service period  
27 completed for up to four (4) consecutive service periods. Tax credits shall be issued annually to the  
28 taxpayer upon proof that (i) the taxpayer has actually incurred and paid such education loan  
29 repayment expenses; (ii) the taxpayer continues to meet the eligibility requirements throughout the  
30 service period; (iii) The award shall not exceed the original loan amount plus any capitalized  
31 interest less award previously claimed under this section; and (iv) that the taxpayer claiming an  
32 award is current on his or her student loan repayment obligations.

1 (d) The commerce corporation shall not commit to overall STEM/design awards in excess  
2 of the amount contained in the ~~commerce-STEM/design~~ fund or to overall healthcare awards in  
3 excess of the amount contained in the healthcare fund.

4 (e) The commerce corporation shall reserve seventy percent (70%) of the awards issued in  
5 a calendar year to applicants who are permanent residents of the state of Rhode Island or who  
6 attended an institution of higher education located in Rhode Island when they incurred the  
7 education loan expenses to be repaid.

8 (f) In administering award, the commerce corporation shall:

9 (1) Require suitable proof that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for award  
10 under this chapter;

11 (2) Determine the contents of applications and other materials to be submitted in support  
12 of an application for award under this chapter; and

13 (3) Collect reports and other information during the eligibility period for each award to  
14 verify that a taxpayer continues to meet the eligibility requirements for an award.

15 **42-64.26-12. Sunset.**

16 No incentives or credits shall be authorized pursuant to this chapter after December 31,  
17 ~~2022~~ 2023.

18 SECTION 9. Section 42-64.27-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.27 entitled “Main  
19 Street Rhode Island Streetscape Improvement Fund” is hereby amended as follows:

20 **42-64.27-6. Sunset.**

21 No incentives shall be authorized pursuant to this chapter after December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

22 SECTION 10. Section 42-64.28-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.28 entitled  
23 “Innovation Initiative” is hereby amended as follows:

24 **42-64.28-10. Sunset.**

25 No vouchers, grants, or incentives shall be authorized pursuant to this chapter after  
26 December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

27 SECTION 11. Section 42-64.29-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.29 entitled  
28 “Industry Cluster Grants” is hereby amended as follows:

29 **42-64.29-8. Sunset.**

30 No grants or incentives shall be authorized to be reserved pursuant to this chapter after  
31 ~~June 30, 2021~~ December 31, 2023.

32 SECTION 12. Section 42-64.31-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.31 entitled “High  
33 School, College, and Employer Partnerships” is hereby amended as follows:

34 **42-64.31-4. Sunset.**

1 No grants shall be authorized pursuant to this chapter after December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

2 SECTION 13. Section 42-64.32-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-64.32 entitled “Air  
3 Service Development Fund” is hereby amended as follows:

4 **42-64.32-6. Sunset.**

5 No grants, credits, or incentives shall be authorized or authorized to be reserved pursuant  
6 to this chapter after December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023.

7 SECTION 14. Section 44-48.3-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-48.3 entitled “Rhode  
8 Island Qualified Jobs Incentive Act of 2015” is hereby amended as follows:

9 **44-48.3-14. Sunset.**

10 No credits shall be authorized to be reserved pursuant to this chapter after December 31,  
11 ~~2022~~ 2023.

12 SECTION 15. This Article shall take effect upon passage.