

2022 -- H 8181

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LC005857  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Introduced By: Representative Lauren H. Carson

Date Introduced: April 28, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, On April 14, 2021, the 2021 Act on Climate was signed into law,  
2     establishing a statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction mandate and setting mandatory,  
3     enforceable climate emissions reduction goals; and

4           WHEREAS, The Act on Climate requires the creation of a Climate Dashboard to foster  
5     public transparency on the implementation of the Act by developing public metrics and an online  
6     public dashboard that tracks both emissions reductions and sources of energy consumed by the  
7     state; and

8           WHEREAS, The Dashboard is an essential planning tool for ongoing work to build a  
9     climate-resilient Rhode Island and fulfills its mission in the face of impacts of climate change  
10    mandated in the Act on Climate. Under the direction of the EC4, the dashboard would be built  
11    with the participation and input and direction of the Council members; and

12          WHEREAS, The Climate Dashboard is a tool for use by government, business and  
13    communities that enables Rhode Island to understand projected potential risks from flooding and  
14    heat under both today's climate and a future changed climate. The Dashboard would compile  
15    climate, physical, and socioeconomic data and create map visualizations in a public online  
16    searchable website; and

17          WHEREAS, The metrics and the Dashboard would need to be updated at least annually  
18    and in order to maximize transparency and consider the effects of climate change, the Dashboard  
19    needs to include additional metrics to meet the mandates of the Act and be built on best practices

1 and be available for all Rhode Islanders; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, the Climate Dashboard needs to identify vulnerabilities  
3 including heat islands, regions prone to flooding, erosion, droughts and storms in Rhode Island  
4 and develop a baseline for measuring plans for meeting mandates in the Act; and

5 WHEREAS, The Dashboard would include:

- 6 • The purpose of the impact report be stated clearly;
- 7 • The mandated targets clearly defined (level and timescale);
- 8 • Sector by sector greenhouse gas emissions data, tracking increases or reductions by  
9 sector over time;
- 10 • Sector-by-sector actions taken to achieve the targets should be documented along  
11 with progress towards taking supplemental actions that would also be effective in  
12 reducing emissions;
- 13 • The metrics/evidence reported should allow a simple assessment of progress, or  
14 not, towards targets; and
- 15 • A tool to collect ongoing public comment on strategies and proposed actions to  
16 reduce greenhouse gas emissions; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
18 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2022-2023, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand  
19 dollars (\$250,000) to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to lead the  
20 effort of building the Dashboard; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to  
21 draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as  
22 may be from time to time 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 \$250,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$250,000 to the Rhode
- 2 Island Department of Environmental Management for the creation of a climate dashboard.

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