

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT ACT OF 2017

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, DiMario, Picard, F Lombardi, Felag, Lombardo, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: February 16, 2022

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 45-67-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-67 entitled "Block Island
2 Utility District Act of 2017" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-67-7. Compensation of the board -- Employees of the utility district.**

4 (a) Members of the board of utility commissioners shall not be entitled to receive
5 compensation for attendance at scheduled and special meetings of the board of utility
6 commissioners, but shall be entitled to reimbursement of the actual and necessary expenses
7 incurred in the performance of their duties. The salaries, compensation, and expenses of employees
8 and agents of the utility district shall be paid solely out of funds of the utility district. No part of
9 the earnings of the utility district shall inure to the benefit of any private person.

10 (b) The board may enter into employment contracts with its executive employees. The
11 board shall have the authority to approve employee benefit plans, including fringe benefits such as,
12 but not limited to, pension, health, disability, and other insurances.

13 (c) No member of the board of utility commissioners shall directly or indirectly engage or
14 participate in the proceeds of any contract or agreement to supply anything of value or receive
15 anything of value from the utility district. The prohibition set forth in this subsection may be waived
16 by a vote of four (4) of the board of utility commissioners if, and only if, the board of utility
17 commissioners shall have first obtained an opinion of the attorney general and/or the Rhode Island
18 ethics commission based on full disclosure of all relevant facts that the waiver does not contravene

1 state law and is otherwise in the best interests of the consumers served by the utility district.

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

=====
LC004661
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT ACT OF
2017

1 This act would provide that the members of the board of the Block Island Utility
2 Commission be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
3 their duties.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004661
=====