

2013 -- H 6001

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Giarrusso, Newberry, Chippendale, Costa, and Morgan

Date Introduced: April 23, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 7.4

4 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 **42-7.4-1. Declaration of purpose.** -- The purpose of this chapter is to establish within
6 the executive office of state government an executive office of economic development. The
7 executive office of economic development will serve as the principal agency of the executive
8 branch of state government for planning, organizing, facilitating, marketing and managing the
9 state's efforts to attract and retain business and industrial enterprises, and foster a vibrant business
10 economy.

11 **42-7.4-2. Executive office of economic development.** -- There is hereby established
12 within the executive branch of state government an executive office of economic development.

13 **42-7.4-3. Powers and duties of the executive office.** -- The executive office shall be
14 responsible for the management and administration of the following state departments:

15 (1) Department of business regulation (chapter 14 of title 42).

16 (2) Department of labor and training (chapter 16.1 of title 42).

17 (3) All state departments, divisions and agencies having oversight and regulatory
18 authority over tourism, economic development, corporate services and marketing of the state's

1 resources to existing or prospective businesses.

2 **42-7.4-4. Responsibilities of the executive office of economic development.** – The
3 executive office of economic development is responsible to:

4 (1) Improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coordination, and quality of economic
5 development policy and planning, budgeting and financing.

6 (2) Manage the development and where necessary the financing of business related
7 infrastructure in cooperation with local cities and towns and through a separately organized
8 economic development financing corporation.

9 (3) Implement best practices in regulating business activities where called for or required,
10 with an eye toward minimization or repeal of regulatory processes where little or no economic
11 benefit can be demonstrated.

12 (4) Design strategies and implement best practices to align statewide educational assets
13 with workforce development.

14 (5) Organize and coordinate business incubation centers within Rhode Island colleges
15 and universities to develop and commercialize scientific, technical and engineering discovery.

16 (6) Leverage the state's tourism assets by undertaking national and international
17 marketing efforts to increase visitor arrivals and stays.

18 (7) Maximize and leverage funds from all available public and private sources, including
19 federal financial participation, grants and awards.

20 (8) Ensure that economic development policies and programs are responsive to changing
21 economic needs and changes in the business environment affecting the welfare of the residents of
22 the state.

23 **42-7.4-5. Secretary of economic development - Appointment.** -- The executive office
24 of economic development shall be administered by a secretary of economic development,
25 hereafter referred to as ("secretary"). The secretary will be an individual with significant
26 experience in business and industry, and must have been responsible for managing an enterprise
27 with more than one thousand (1,000) employees. The position of secretary is hereby created in
28 the unclassified service. The secretary shall be appointed by the governor, and shall be subject to
29 advice and consent of the senate. The secretary shall hold office at the pleasure of the governor,
30 and until a successor is appointment and qualified. Before entering upon the discharge of duties,
31 the secretary shall take an oath to faithfully execute the duties of the office.

32 **42-7.4-6. Responsibilities of the secretary.** -- The secretary shall be responsible to the
33 governor for supervising the executive office of economic development, and for managing and
34 providing strategic leadership and direction to the departments reporting to the office.

1 Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in this chapter, the governor shall appoint the directors
2 of the departments within the executive office of economic development. Directors appointed to
3 those departments shall continue to be subject to the advice and consent of the senate and shall
4 continue to hold office as set forth in section 42-6-1 et seq.

5 **42-7.4-7. Appointment of employees.** -- The secretary, subject to the provisions of
6 applicable state law, shall be the appointing authority for all employees of the executive office of
7 economic development.

8 **42-7.4-8. Rules and regulations.** -- The executive office of economic development is
9 authorized to make and promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary for
10 the proper administration of this chapter and to carry out the purposes thereof.

11 **42-7.4-9. Severability.** -- If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any
12 person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect other provisions or
13 applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
14 and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

15 SECTION 2. Section 42-6-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-6 entitled "Departments
16 of State Government" is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **42-6-1. Enumeration of departments.** -- All the administrative powers and duties
18 heretofore vested by law in the several state departments, boards, divisions, bureaus,
19 commissions, and other agencies shall be vested in the following departments and other agencies
20 which are specified in this title:

- 21 (a) Executive department (chapter 7 of this title);
- 22 (b) Department of state (chapter 8 of this title);
- 23 (c) Department of the attorney general (chapter 9 of this title);
- 24 (d) Treasury department (chapter 10 of this title);
- 25 (e) Department of administration (chapter 11 of this title);
- 26 (f) Department of business regulation (chapter 14 of this title);
- 27 (g) Department of children, youth, and families (chapter 72 of this title);
- 28 (h) Department of corrections (chapter 56 of this title);
- 29 (i) Department of elderly affairs (chapter 66 of this title);
- 30 (j) Department of elementary and secondary education (chapter 60 of title 16);
- 31 (k) Department of environmental management (chapter 17.1 of this title);
- 32 (l) Department of health (chapter 18 of this title);
- 33 (m) Board of governors for higher education (chapter 59 of title 16);
- 34 (n) Department of labor and training (chapter 16.1 of this title);

- 1 (o) Department of mental health, retardation, and hospitals (chapter 12.1 of this title);
- 2 (p) Department of human services (chapter 12 of this title);
- 3 (q) Department of transportation (chapter 13 of this title);
- 4 (r) Public utilities commission (chapter 14.3 of this title);
- 5 (s) Department of revenue (chapter 142 of title 42);
- 6 (t) Department of public safety (chapter 7.3 of this title);
- 7 [\(u\) Executive office of economic development \(chapter 7.4 of this title\).](#)

8 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 This act would establish the executive office of economic development, and would set
2 forth the responsibilities of this office. It would further provide for the appointment of secretary
3 of the executive office of economic development.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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