

2013 -- H 6070

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LC02351
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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 - COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC
ADVISORS

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Tomasso, Winfield, Tanzi, and Valencia

Date Introduced: May 01, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings and purpose.

2 WHEREAS, There is a need for state governments to generate data and information to
3 use in policy analysis; and

4 WHEREAS, the state of Rhode Island should collect, gather and share data and
5 information about the state and the economy; and

6 WHEREAS, The state of Rhode Island does not have a central repository of data and
7 information; and

8 WHEREAS, There is a need for sound economic policy analysis to better understand the
9 economy within the state and how the state's economy interacts with other areas and regions; and

10 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's current economic climate and budget challenges require the
11 evaluation and better understanding of the economic conditions facing the state; and

12 RESOLVED, That the state should and by this legislation shall create the organization
13 that will be responsible for the collection of economic data and preparation of economic analysis.

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

16 CHAPTER 64.17

17 COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS

18 42-64.17-1. Council of economic advisors established. -- There is hereby established a

1 council of economic advisors who shall consist of the following nine (9) members appointed by
2 the governor:

3 (1) The following shall be ex-officio members:

4 (i) Secretary of commerce;

5 (ii) Director of the office of management and budget;

6 (iii) A representative from the office of revenue analysis;

7 (iv) Director of labor management information systems;

8 (2) In addition to the four ex-officio members, there shall be five (5) public members
9 selected by the governor.

10 (3) The five public members selected by the governor shall be selected based upon
11 specific experience in economics, research and related training. The governor may seek
12 recommendations from both public and private institutions of higher education and other
13 organizations within the state.

14 **42-64.17-2. Purpose and charge to the council. --** The council shall:

15 (a) Be a collection point of data and information on the economy of Rhode Island;

16 (b) Advise on economic policy for the governor, the executive office of commerce, and
17 the state;

18 (c) Prepare economic policy analysis on specific issues such as tax credits, tax
19 expenditures and other related matters;

20 (d) Publish reports and analyses as it sees fit to inform the state of the effect of economic
21 activity and policy;

22 (e) Establish a central repository of economic information in conjunction with the
23 department of administration and the department of revenue and other state departments;

24 (f) Prepared an annual report on the economy of Rhode Island; and

25 (g) Review and advise on the strategic economic development plan for the state of Rhode
26 Island.

27 **42-64.17-3. Structure. --** (a) The members of the council shall be appointed by governor
28 for terms of no longer than three (3) years and may be reappointed. The secretary of commerce
29 shall be the chairman and the council shall select a vice chair. The council shall be staffed
30 through the executive office of commerce and shall utilize the staffs and resources of the division
31 of state-wide planning.

32 (b) The council will be able to hire, subject to funding, consultants and related assistance
33 to provide the type of analysis to inform its work.

34 **42-64.17-4. State departments to cooperate with council. --** All departments, offices,

1 boards and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the council of economic advisors and furnish
2 such administrative and staff support, advice, information, documents and otherwise, data and
3 data analysis and other support as may be necessary or desirable.

4 **42-64.17-5. Powers of council. --** In carrying out the responsibility under this chapter,
5 the council may:

- 6 (a) Accept grant funds and in-kind contributions from governmental and private entities;
- 7 (b) Conduct hearings;
- 8 (c) Invite academic experts and other witnesses to submit testimony; and
- 9 (d) Contract with experts and consultants as necessary to inform on deliberations and
10 recommendations.

11 **42-64.17-6. Council subject to open meetings and access to public records laws. --** In
12 addition to any other applicable law, rules or regulations, the council of economic advisors shall
13 be subject to the provisions of the open meetings act as set forth in title 42, chapter 46 of the
14 Rhode Island general laws, and the access to public records act as set forth in title 38, chapter 2
15 of the Rhode Island general laws.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC
ADVISORS

- 1 This act would establish a new council of economic advisors. This act directs said council
- 2 to gather economic data and information on the Rhode Island economy.
- 3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2014.

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