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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING GOVERNOR CHAFEE TO CREATE A GOVERNOR'S  
COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE COORDINATING CABINET

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Satchell, Cool Rumsey, Walaska, and Lynch

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Commerce

1           WHEREAS, There is a need to ensure the coordination and alignment of the various  
2 functions and responsibilities throughout state departments to maximize support of Rhode  
3 Island's economic and workforce development efforts; and

4           WHEREAS, State departments have a range of plans and activities that should be better  
5 coordinated to provide for a common policy direction and the maximum and efficient use of state  
6 government resources to promote the Rhode Island economy and improve the state's workforce;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Rhode Island Senate to provide for the most efficient  
9 and effective economic and workforce development policy in the state; and

10          WHEREAS, In its 2014-2015 Biennial Employment and Training Plan, the Rhode Island  
11 Governor's Workforce Board recommends increasing the frequency of cabinet-level meetings on  
12 workforce development matters; and

13          WHEREAS, Interdepartmental collaboration and the open exchange of information and  
14 data among various state departments is crucial to better understanding the impact of the various  
15 departments and their influence on the state's economic and workforce development efforts; now,  
16 therefore be it

17          RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
18 respectfully requests the Governor's Office create a Commerce and Workforce Coordinating  
19 Cabinet comprised of officials from state agencies with responsibility and oversight relating to

1 economic and workforce development. The cabinet shall include, but not be limited to, the  
2 following members: the Director of the Economic Development Corporation, the Director of the  
3 Department of Transportation, the Director of the Department of Administration, the Director of  
4 the Division of Revenue, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the Commissioner  
5 of Higher Education, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Director of  
6 the Department of Business Regulation, the Director of the Department of Environmental  
7 Management, the Director of the Department of Labor and Training, the Director of the  
8 Department of Corrections, the Chair of the Governor's Workforce Board, and the Executive  
9 Director of Rhode Island Housing. The governor shall designate the Director of the Economic  
10 Development Corporation as chair; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Commerce and Workforce Coordinating Cabinet  
12 shall be to provide for the integration and coordination of the activities of the various agencies  
13 and departments that are involved in the development of the Rhode Island economy and its  
14 workforce; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the duties of the Commerce and Workforce Coordinating Cabinet  
16 shall include, but not be limited to:

17           (i) Meeting at least monthly to address all issues, especially those that cross departmental  
18 lines and relate to economic and workforce development of the state of Rhode Island;

19           (ii) Reviewing, amending, and proposing all interagency agreements necessary to provide  
20 coordinated services;

21           (iii) Promoting the coordination of state activities as the state implements the state's  
22 economic and workforce development policy and plan;

23           (iv) Providing for the maximum amount of coordination amongst the state's various  
24 departments and agencies that influence economic and workforce development efforts in Rhode  
25 Island;

26           (v) Aligning the various operating plans to meet the overall economic and workforce  
27 development plans for the state and provide an exchange of information amongst the various  
28 stakeholders;

29           (vi) Providing advice to the Governor on economic and workforce development policy;

30           (vii) Undertaking specific projects as requested by the Governor; and

31           (viii) Developing a strategic plan to align and implement the state's economic and  
32 workforce development strategies among the various departments included in the cabinet; and be  
33 it further

34           RESOLVED, That all departments, offices, boards, and agencies of the state shall

1 cooperate with the Commerce and Workforce Coordinating Cabinet and shall furnish such  
2 administrative and staff support, advice, information, documents and otherwise, data and data  
3 analysis, and other support as may be necessary or desirable; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That in carrying out the responsibility under this order, the cabinet may: (i)  
5 Accept grant funds and in-kind contributions from governmental and private entities; (ii) Hold  
6 hearings; (iii) Invite academic experts and other witnesses to submit testimony; and (iv) Contract  
7 with experts and consultants as necessary to inform deliberations and recommendations; and be it  
8 further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

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