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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

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Pearson, Bates, Paiva Weed, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate 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 155

4 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DATA AND INFORMATION

5 **42-155-1. Creation of the office of economic data and information.** -- The office of  
6 management and budget shall create an office of economic data and information.

7 **42-155-2. Economic data and information advisory council.** -- (a) An economic data  
8 and information advisory council is hereby established and shall be comprised of seven (7)  
9 members as follows: the director of the office of management and budget; the director of the  
10 department of revenue, or designee; the director of the economic development corporation, or  
11 designee; the director of the department of administration, or designee, and three (3) public  
12 members, appointed by the governor, who shall be selected based upon specific experience in  
13 economics, research, data analysis, and related background and training. In making the  
14 appointments, the governor may seek recommendations from both public and private institutions  
15 of higher education and other organizations within the state.

16 (b) Purpose. - The purpose of the council shall be to serve as an advisory body to the  
17 director of the office of management and budget on all matters pertaining to the responsibilities  
18 and duties of the office of economic data and information.

19 (c) The council shall meet no less than annually with the economic development

1 corporation board, or a subcommittee of that board.

2 (d) All public members shall serve for a term of three (3) years and/or until their  
3 successors are appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself.  
4 A vacancy other than by expiration shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment  
5 but only for the unexpired portion of the term.

6 (e) The members of the council shall serve without compensation.

7 (f) In addition to any other applicable law, rules or regulations, the council shall be  
8 subject to the provisions of chapter 42-46 ("Open Meetings") and chapter 38-2 ("Access to Public  
9 Records").

10 (g) The council shall be co-chaired by the director of the economic development  
11 corporation and one other member.

12 **42-155-3. Powers of the office of economic data and information. --** (a) The office of  
13 economic data and information shall have the following functions:

14 (1) Establish within the government of the state of Rhode Island a central repository of  
15 economic data and information, coordinated from various departments and agencies;

16 (2) Serve as collection point of data and information on the Rhode Island economy;

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

19 (4) Publish reports and analysis as it sees fit to help inform the state of the effect of  
20 economic activity and policy;

21 (5) Prepare and annually update a state economic data book, which shall contain a  
22 statistical and economic profile of the state and its region;

23 (6) Prepare and update a business climate profile for the state which shall compare the  
24 statistical and economic profile of the state with its neighbors and all fifty (50) states;

25 (7) Provide data to inform the strategic economic development planning process for the  
26 state of Rhode Island established pursuant to title 42; and

27 (8) Utilize objective data to evaluate economic development policy goals, resource use  
28 and outcome evaluation and to perform short and long-term policy planning and development;

29 SECTION 2. 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

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1           This act would establish an office of economic data and information within the office of  
2 management and budget.

3           This act would take effect on January 1, 2014.

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