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LC01984/SUB B/3
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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. 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 64.18](#)

17 [COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS](#)

18 **42-64.18-1. Council of economic advisors established.** -- [\(a\) There is hereby](#)
19 [established a council of economic advisors who shall consist of the following nine \(9\) members](#)

1 appointed by the governor:

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

3 (i)(A) The executive director of the economic development corporation until such time
4 that the secretary of commerce is appointed;

5 (B) Upon his or her appointment, the secretary of commerce:

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

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

8 (iv) Director of labor management information systems;

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

11 (3) The five (5) public members selected by the governor shall be selected based upon
12 specific experience in economics, research and related training. The governor may seek
13 recommendations from both public and private institutions of higher education and other
14 organizations within the state.

15 **42-64.18-2. Purpose and charge to the council. --** The council shall:

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

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

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

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

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

25 (6) Prepare an annual report on the economy of Rhode Island; and

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

28 **42-64.18-3. Structure. --** (a) The members of the council shall be appointed by the
29 governor for terms of no longer than three (3) years and may be reappointed. The executive
30 director of the economic development corporation shall be the chairperson until such time that the
31 secretary of commerce is appointed;

32 Upon his or her appointment, the secretary of commerce shall be the chairperson. The
33 council shall also select a vice chair. The council shall be staffed through the economic
34 development corporation and shall utilize the staffs and resources of the division of statewide

1 planning.

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

4 **42-64.18-4. State departments to cooperate with council. --** All departments, offices,
5 boards and agencies of the state shall cooperate with the council of economic advisors and furnish
6 such administrative and staff support, advice, information, documents and otherwise, data and
7 data analysis and other support as may be necessary or desirable.

8 **42-64.18-5. Powers of council. --** In carrying out the responsibility under this chapter,
9 the council may:

- 10 (1) Accept grant funds and in-kind contributions from governmental and private entities;
11 (2) Conduct hearings;
12 (3) Invite academic experts and other witnesses to submit testimony; and
13 (4) Contract with experts and consultants as necessary to inform on deliberations and
14 recommendations.

15 **42-64.18-6. Council subject to open meetings and access to public records laws. --** In
16 addition to any other applicable law, rules or regulations, the council of economic advisors shall
17 be subject to the provisions of the open meetings act as set forth in title 42, chapter 46 of the
18 Rhode Island general laws, and the access to public records act as set forth in title 38, chapter 2 of
19 the Rhode Island general laws.

20 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

- 1 This act would establish a new council of economic advisors. This act would direct said
- 2 council 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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