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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

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

Date Introduced: February 13, 2014

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 155

4 RHODE ISLAND PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

5 **42-155-1. Legislative findings. --** For decades, private industry has been utilizing
6 continuous improvement tools in order to make their operations more efficient and effective.
7 These improvement tools have been a critical and important component for successfully
8 competing in the global economy. Unfortunately, the concept of continuous improvement has
9 largely been absent from governmental operations, however, during the past few years,
10 governors, and state departments and agencies across the country have begun implementing
11 improvement tools in the workforce. As a result, inefficient governmental operating systems have
12 been streamlined, workforce effectiveness has been enhanced and improved customer service has
13 been provided to constituents.

14 Continuous improvement must become part of the governmental culture, and the program
15 established by this chapter is an attempt to encourage state leaders, and agency and departmental
16 leaders to learn and utilize tools of process development and improvement in order to improve
17 and enhance governmental services for the residents of Rhode Island.

18 **42-155-2. Rhode Island Performance Excellence Program. --** (a) There shall be
19 established a Rhode Island Performance Excellence Program ("Program") to be administered and

1 funded by the governor's workforce board. The goal of the Program is to foster a culture of
2 excellence by encouraging participation in, and rewarding, successful workforce improvement
3 projects.

4 (b) A steering committee shall be established in connection with the program provided
5 from the Rhode Island chapter of the American Society for Quality ("ASQ"), in order to establish
6 the parameters and guidelines for the Program.

7 (c) The Program shall create, among other things, training guides, seminars and an annual
8 project award in connection with workforce effectiveness and efficiency in the government
9 workplace. All projects shall be judged using the guidelines for public service process
10 certification as published by the ASQ, and shall provide for monetary awards as established by
11 the ASQ.

12 (d) The governor's workforce board shall fund the Program on an annual basis in the
13 minimum annual amount of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would create the Rhode Island Performance Excellence Program in order to
- 2 foster a culture to continuously improve the efficiencies of the government workforce.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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