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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

Introduced By: Representative Patricia A. Serpa

Date Introduced: April 16, 2015

Referred To: House Small Business

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 22-7.6-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 22-7.6 entitled "Permanent  
2 Joint Committee on Small Business" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **22-7.6-4. Duties.** – (a) It shall be the duty of the joint committee to promote the  
4 development of legislation affecting small business regulatory matters including, but not limited  
5 to, taxation, licensing, loan programs, simplification of government rules and regulations,  
6 technical assistance, and assistance in industrial development for both incorporated and  
7 unincorporated small businesses.

8           (b) Commencing January 1, 2016, the joint committee shall assume the additional duty of  
9 determining that as to the composition of all advisory boards, advisory commissions and advisory  
10 committees established by the general assembly dealing with matters of economic development  
11 and/or job creation, twenty percent (20%) of the membership of said boards, commissions and  
12 committees shall consist of members of the small business community as defined in § 22-7.6-  
13 1(15), or from larger businesses.

14           SECTION 2. Section 7-6-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 7-6 entitled "Rhode Island  
15 Nonprofit Corporation Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16           **7-6-15. Members.** – (a) A corporation may have one or more classes of members or may  
17 have no members. If the corporation has one or more classes of members, the designation of the  
18 class or classes, the manner of election or appointment, and the qualifications and rights of the

1 members of each class shall be stated in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws. If the  
2 corporation has no members, that fact shall be stated in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws.  
3 A corporation may issue certificates evidencing membership. The directors, officers, employees,  
4 and members of the corporation are not liable on its obligations.

5 [\(b\) Commencing January 1, 2016, all corporations having one or more classes of](#)  
6 [members shall be required to appoint twenty percent \(20%\) of the members of each class from the](#)  
7 [members of the small business community as defined in § 22-7.6-1\(15\) or from larger businesses.](#)

8 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

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1           This act would require that all advisory committees, commissions and boards dealing  
2 with matters of economic development and/or job creation created by the general assembly on or  
3 after January 1, 2016 would consist of members selected from the small business community or  
4 from larger businesses, equaling twenty percent (20%) of said committees, commissions or  
5 boards as well as all classes of members of nonprofit corporations formed on or after January 1,  
6 2016.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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