

**2015 -- S 0317 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC001281/SUB A  
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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 PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Felag, DiPalma, Picard, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: Senate Government Oversight

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 35-3 of the General Laws entitled "State Budget" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **35-3-28. Legislative findings. -- (a) The general assembly finds that:**

4           (1) The foundation of democracy is based on a government's accountability to its  
5 citizenry;

6           (2) Enhancing government transparency enhances the democratic process; and

7           (3) As such, state government has the responsibility to provide easily understandable and  
8 accessible information about the state's annual budget to its citizens.

9           (b) Citizens' guide to the state budget. – Beginning with the state fiscal year 2016 budget  
10 as enacted, the state budget office, with input from the secretary of state's office on the language,  
11 form and presentation used, shall produce an annual citizens' guide to the state budget revenue  
12 and expenditures. The citizens' guide shall be in a form and substance that is easily readable and  
13 understandable by the general public. The citizens' guide shall include data on each department's  
14 purpose and populations served; and where available, may include performance measures over  
15 time, depicted in a graphic format. The citizens' guide to the state budget shall be produced and  
16 released on the secretary of state's website no later than sixty (60) days after the public release of  
17 the annual state budget office "Budget as Enacted" report. The citizen's guide need only be  
18 prepared in an online or electronic format, and neither the state budget office nor the secretary of  
19 state's office shall be required to produce or distribute a paper or hard copy of the guide.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET

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- 1           This act would require the state budget office to produce a citizens' guide to the state
- 2 budget that is easily readable and understandable by the general public.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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