

2016 -- S 2148

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LC003909  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LIGHTING DISTRICT ENERGY COSTS

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Lombardo, Kettle, P Fogarty, and Morgan

Date Introduced: January 21, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 94

4 LOCAL LIGHTING DISTRICT ENERGY COSTS

5 **23-94-1. Findings.** -- The Rhode Island general assembly finds that:

6 (1) The state of Rhode Island has an obligation to ensure that public streets are well lit for  
7 safety purposes.

8 (2) The utility companies that supply the energy necessary to power the street lights  
9 should be timely paid for their services.

10 (3) It has created and authorized local lighting districts to provide adequate lighting for  
11 streets within its district.

12 (4) All local lighting districts have not been timely paying for the energy used to fund  
13 their street lights.

14 **23-94-2. State liability for local lighting districts' energy costs.** -- If a legislatively  
15 authorized local lighting district fails to pay the energy costs necessary to supply public street  
16 lighting, then the state of Rhode Island shall pay energy suppliers' lighting bill until such time as  
17 the lighting district regains its financial wellbeing.

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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LIGHTING DISTRICT ENERGY COSTS

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1           This act would require the state to pay a lighting district's energy bill, if the lighting  
2 district fails to pay it.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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