

2016 -- S 3024

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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 - RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY  
CORPORATION

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Ruggerio, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: May 19, 2016

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-19-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-19 entitled "Rhode  
2 Island Resource Recovery Corporation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-19-2. Legislative findings.** -- The general assembly recognizes and declares that:

4 (1) The people of the state desire to promote a clean and wholesome environment;

5 (2) Many municipalities have serious solid waste management problems and face  
6 difficulty in providing adequate services at reasonable costs;

7 (3) Inefficient practices and poor management techniques result in pollution problems  
8 and environmental deterioration and result in a waste of land and other valuable resources;

9 (4) Solid waste management problems are statewide in scope and necessitate state action  
10 through technical assistance and leadership in the application of new and improved methods and  
11 processes to reduce the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of, and to promote  
12 environmentally acceptable and economically sound solid waste management;

13 (5) The continuing technological processes and improvements in the methods of  
14 manufacture, packaging, and marketing of consumer products, has resulted in an increased  
15 volume, and in a change in the characteristics, of material being discharged;

16 (6) The economic and population growth of the state and the improvements in the  
17 standards of living enjoyed by the people of the state have required increased industrial  
18 production together with related commercial operations to meet these needs, all of which has

1 resulted in an increasing volume of discharged materials;

2 (7) The failure or inability to economically recover and recycle materials and energy  
3 resources from solid waste results in the unnecessary waste and depletion of natural resources;

4 (8) Provision for necessary, cost efficient, and environmentally sound systems, facilities,  
5 technology, and services for solid waste management and resource recovery is a matter of  
6 important public interest and concern, and action taken in this regard will be for a public purpose  
7 and will benefit the public welfare;

8 (9) The landfill disposal of solid waste, even under the most ideal conditions, creates a  
9 long-term potential for pollution and environmental degradation;

10 (10) Recycling facilities must be integrated into the development of all solid waste  
11 disposal facilities under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation;

12 (11) The central landfill is a public resource of limited and finite capacity which the  
13 state, as guardian and trustee for its people, has the right and the obligation to preserve for the use  
14 of its people; and

15 (12) The state, by creating the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation and through it  
16 operating the central landfill, is a participant in the landfill services market and has entered that  
17 market for the purpose of serving the citizens, residents, and municipalities of this state.

18 (13) Solid waste diversion is necessary and therefore it is the policy goal of the state that  
19 not less than fifty percent (50%) of the solid waste generated be diverted through diversion,  
20 source reduction, re-use, recycling, or composting by 2025.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY  
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1           This act would declare that the state's policy goal with respect to solid waste is that not  
2 less than fifty percent of the solid waste generated be diverted through diversion, source  
3 reduction, re-use, recycling or composting by 2025.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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