

2017 -- S 0315

LC000273

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LIGHTING DISTRICT ENERGY COSTS

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 16, 2017

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.**

6 The general assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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

15 **23-94-2. State liability for local lighting districts' energy costs.**

16 If a legislatively authorized local lighting district fails to pay the energy costs necessary  
17 to supply public street lighting, then the state of Rhode Island shall pay energy suppliers' lighting  
18 bill until such time as 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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