

2017 -- S 0469

LC001605

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET- CITIZENS' BUDGET REPORT

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Cote, Satchell, DiPalma, and Calkin

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Finance

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 - Citizens' budget report.**

4 (a) The general assembly finds that:

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

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

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

10 (b) Citizens' budget report. – Beginning with the state fiscal year 2018 budget as enacted,
11 the state budget office, with input from the secretary of state's office on the language, form and
12 presentation used, shall produce an annual citizens' guide to the state budget revenue and
13 expenditures to be known as the "citizens' budget report." The citizens' budget report shall be in a
14 form and substance that is easily readable and understandable by the general public. The citizens'
15 budget report shall include data on each department's purpose and populations served; and, where
16 available, may include performance measures over time, depicted in a graphic format. The
17 citizens' budget report shall be produced and released on the secretary of state's website no later
18 than sixty (60) days after the public release of the annual state budget office "budget as enacted"
19 report. The citizens' budget report need only be prepared in an online or electronic format, and

1 [neither the state budget office nor the secretary of state's office shall be required to produce or](#)
2 [distribute a paper or hard copy of the report.](#)

3 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 PUBLIC FINANCE - STATE BUDGET- CITIZENS' BUDGET REPORT

1 This act would require the state budget office to produce a citizens' guide to the state
2 budget, to be known as the "citizens' budget report," that is easily readable and understandable by
3 the general public.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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