

2018 -- S 2379

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY
CORPORATION

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, and Archambault

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-19-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-19 entitled "Rhode
2 Island Resource Recovery Corporation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-19-13. Municipal participation in state program.**

4 (a) (1) Any person or municipality which intends to transfer, treat, or dispose of solid
5 waste originating or collected within the state, or which intends to make arrangements to do so,
6 shall utilize, exclusively, a system or facility designated by the corporation as provided under this
7 chapter. All transfer stations in existence as of December 1, 1986 are empowered so long as they
8 maintain the appropriate license to continue their operations, and the corporation shall not
9 exercise its powers under this chapter to compete with their operation and activity. No
10 municipality shall have power to engage in, grant any license, or permit for or enter into any
11 contract for the collection, treatment, transportation, storage, or disposal of solid waste, and no
12 municipality or any person shall engage in any activities within the state, including disposal of
13 solid waste, which would impair the ability of the corporation to meet its contractual obligations
14 to its bondholders and others, or which would be in competition with the purposes of the
15 corporation as provided in this chapter. The corporation shall not be empowered to engage in the
16 transportation, transfer, or storage of solid waste, except in temporary situations where a
17 municipality has defaulted in its obligation under this section, or in conjunction with its activities
18 at its disposal sites. Provided, however, that municipal contracts which were in existence on

1 March 1, 1985, are excepted from this requirement until expiration of the original term of the
2 contract or the expiration of any extension approved by the corporation, or sooner termination of
3 the contracts, and provided, further, that municipalities operating their own landfills on December
4 1, 1986 shall be free to continue to use the landfills until closure of the landfills. Without limiting
5 the generality of the preceding, municipalities and persons are expressly empowered to contract
6 with the corporation and/or, subject to the approval of the corporation, with a duly licensed
7 private disposal facility for the disposal of solid wastes. The approval shall be conditioned upon a
8 finding by the board of commissioners of the corporation that any proposed contract with a
9 Rhode Island municipality or person is in conformity with the statewide resource recovery system
10 development plan and this chapter, and that the proposed contract will not impair the ability of
11 the corporation to meet its contractual obligations to its bondholders and others. The contracts
12 may have a maximum total term, including all renewals, of up to fifty (50) years.

13 (2) The corporation shall charge fees for its solid waste management services that,
14 together with other revenues available to the corporation, will, at a minimum, be sufficient to
15 provide for the support of the corporation and its operations on a self-sustaining basis, including
16 debt service on its bonds and other obligations.

17 (b) Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any
18 other laws of this state, general, special, or local, restricting the power of any municipality to
19 enter into long term contracts with the corporation, the provisions of this chapter shall be
20 controlling. The corporation shall provide suitable and appropriate assistance to communities
21 under these circumstances. Notwithstanding the preceding, if the corporation deems it desirable,
22 it may from time to time permit municipalities to contract among themselves for the disposal of
23 their wastes.

24 (c) Municipalities, along with private producers of waste which contract with the
25 corporation for disposal of their wastes, shall continue to be free to make their own arrangements
26 for collection of wastes at the source and/or the hauling of wastes to the designated processing
27 and/or transfer stations, so long as those arrangements are in compliance with the provisions of
28 chapter 18.9 of this title and with this chapter, and any municipal license relating thereto.

29 (d) All municipalities and state agencies which are participants in the state waste disposal
30 program shall initiate a separation and recycling program within one year after the date on which
31 the resource recovery facility utilized by that municipality or agency is operational and accepting
32 waste for incineration.

33 (e) (1) The corporation and any municipality may enter into a contract or contracts
34 providing for or relating to the disposal of solid waste originating in the municipality and the cost

1 and expense of the disposal.

2 (2) The contract may be made with or without consideration and for a specified or
3 unspecified time not to exceed fifty (50) years, and on any terms and conditions which may be
4 approved by the municipality and which may be agreed to by the corporation in conformity with
5 its contracts with the holders of any bonds or other obligations. Subject to the contracts with the
6 holders of bonds, the municipality is authorized and directed to do and perform any and all acts or
7 things necessary, convenient, or desirable to carry out and perform the contract and to provide for
8 the payment or discharge of any obligation under the contract in the same manner as other
9 obligations of the municipality.

10 (3) All municipalities that contract with the corporation for the disposal of solid waste
11 shall prepare as an addendum to its fiscal year 2010 contract with the corporation and any
12 contracts with the corporation for the subsequent years a plan that includes a description of the
13 process by which thirty-five percent (35%) of its solid waste will be recycled and fifty percent
14 (50%) of its solid waste will be diverted beginning July 1, 2012. This addendum shall include a
15 residential and municipal waste stream evaluation, a plan for the reduction of solid waste and
16 recyclables generated and the process by which recyclable materials are to be segregated. The
17 corporation shall have the right to execute or deny execution of the municipal solid waste and
18 recycling services contract pending approval of the addendum. Once the corporation approves
19 this addendum, the municipality must implement the plan and report on the results annually to the
20 corporation. The corporation shall enforce the provisions of this section pursuant to subdivision
21 23-19-13(g)(3).

22 (4) The corporation shall notify every city or town that it contracts with as to the
23 addendum requirements that must be included in contracts to recycle thirty-five percent (35%)
24 and divert fifty percent (50%) of solid waste beginning July 1, 2012.

25 (f) The municipalities and the state have shared responsibility for the payment of the cost
26 of municipal solid waste disposal. The state will pay its share of the cost of the solid waste
27 disposal services to be provided by the corporation to the municipalities at its solid waste
28 management facilities and its central landfill in the town of Johnston, and at any back-up facility
29 which the corporation is required to provide, by providing solid waste disposal operating
30 subsidies as provided in subsections (i) and (j).

31 (g) (1) The corporation shall charge each municipality with which it has a long-term
32 contract for solid waste disposal services a tipping fee per ton of source separated solid waste
33 excluding separated recyclable materials, sludge, and demolition debris delivered to any
34 corporation facility computed in accordance with this subsection. For purposes of this chapter,

1 "fiscal year" shall mean the twelve-month period, July 1 to June 30. The municipal tipping fee
2 shall be equal to one hundred seven and one-half percent (107.5%) of the prior fiscal year's
3 municipal tipping fee through the end of the 2009 fiscal year. One dollar and ten cents (\$1.10) per
4 ton on all garbage, including recycled garbage, collected by the corporation as tipping fee shall be
5 paid to the town of Johnston. In addition to any other fees the corporation shall also charge a
6 three dollar (\$3.00) tipping fee per vehicle. Any vehicle carrying municipal solid waste shall be
7 exempt from this three dollar (\$3.00) tipping fee. All fees collected shall be paid to the town of
8 Johnston on a biannual basis. The corporation shall annually pay to the town of Johnston an
9 additional six million dollars (\$6,000,000). No tipping fee shall be charged for recyclable
10 materials delivered to a recycling facility provided by or through the corporation.

11 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (g)(1), the municipal tipping fee may
12 be increased, if, due to the commencement of operation of a new resource recovery facility during
13 the previous fiscal year, the state subsidy as calculated pursuant to subsection (i), not considering
14 landfill revenues and losses, is projected to be greater than the state subsidy projected by the
15 corporation and the department of administration when the projections were officially accepted
16 by the corporation on the basis of contracts entered into for the initial resource recovery facility.
17 The amount by which the projected state subsidy exceeds the original projections will be
18 apportioned between the state and the municipalities in the same ratio as the state subsidy for the
19 previous year divided by the number of tons of municipal solid waste processed by the
20 corporation bears to the municipal tipping fee for that year. The increased municipal tipping fee
21 herein provided shall be subject to the same escalation factor as the municipal tipping fee set forth
22 above.

23 (3) The corporation shall establish in the contract, the maximum amount of municipal
24 solid waste that each municipality will be entitled to deliver to the corporation at the municipal
25 tipping fee. Solid waste in excess of the contract amount will be charged to the municipality at the
26 non-municipal rate. In determining the maximum amount of municipal solid waste which will
27 qualify for the municipal tipping fee, the corporation shall consider the municipality's solid waste
28 per capita average, the statewide solid waste per capita average, and any other factors that it shall
29 deem appropriate.

30 (4) Seaweed collected and removed by a municipality shall be deemed "yard waste" for
31 purposes of this chapter and any rules, regulations and/or plans promulgated by the corporation
32 pursuant to this chapter, and shall be accepted by the corporation at the same rate and cost as all
33 other municipal yard waste.

34 (h) The corporation, after the initial resource recovery facility becomes operational, shall

1 charge each non-municipal user of its facilities a fee per ton equal to the projected annual
2 resource recovery system cost less energy revenues and interest earnings on bond reserve funds,
3 if any, divided by the projected tons to be processed by the corporation at its resource facilities
4 for the year. Landfill costs shall not be considered in the calculation unless landfill costs exceed
5 revenues generated at the landfills; in those cases, excess landfill costs will be added to the
6 system costs.

7 (i) The annual state subsidy for the cost of disposal of municipal solid waste shall be
8 calculated for each fiscal year or portion of each fiscal year according to the following formula:
9 The annual state subsidy shall equal the total projected annual resource recovery system costs
10 (minus costs associated with the central landfill) for the next fiscal year less the sum of the
11 following: (1) projected resource recovery system revenues for the year; and (2) projected landfill
12 revenues; provided, however, that in the event that the landfill is projected to operate at a loss, the
13 amount of the loss shall be added to the subsidy.

14 (j) (1) On or before October 1 of each year, the corporation shall submit a budget to the
15 director of administration for the succeeding fiscal year using actual resource recovery system
16 revenues and costs, and the audit of the preceding fiscal year prepared by the corporation's
17 independent auditors and accepted by the auditor general. On or before December 1 of each year,
18 the director of administration, in consultation with the corporation, shall review the budget of the
19 corporation and shall determine and certify the annual state subsidy for the succeeding fiscal year
20 to the governor who shall submit to the general assembly printed copies of a budget which shall
21 include the state subsidy as previously determined in this subsection. The state subsidy
22 appropriation shall be on a system basis but shall contain specific appropriations for each
23 resource recovery facility. If the amount appropriated exceeds the amount needed for a specific
24 facility, the corporation, with the approval of the director of administration, may reallocate the
25 appropriated but unadvanced funds to other corporation facilities or costs. If the audit prepared by
26 the corporation's independent auditors indicates that the amounts appropriated and disbursed to
27 the corporation as a subsidy were in excess of the amounts which would have been required for
28 the year if actual resource recovery system revenues and costs had been used in the calculation of
29 the subsidy, the excess shall be credited against the current fiscal year's subsidy.

30 (2) At any time, if the corporation determines that the state subsidy will be insufficient to
31 discharge the corporation's obligations for the current fiscal year, it shall request, in writing, to
32 the director of administration for a supplemental appropriation. After review, the director of
33 administration will recommend to the governor additional funding for the corporation, and the
34 governor after further review, shall submit a supplemental appropriation bill request for the funds

1 to the general assembly.

2 (3) From the appropriations made by the general assembly, the state controller is
3 authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer every month for the
4 payment of those sums that may be required upon receipt by him or her of properly authenticated
5 vouchers.

6 (k) If, in any fiscal year, the appropriation for the state subsidy is not made and if the
7 corporation has insufficient other funds to discharge its obligations to holders of its bonds and
8 notes as certified by the state auditor general, the corporation shall be empowered to charge both
9 municipal and non-municipal users whatever fees are necessary to discharge its obligations to
10 holders of its bonds and notes, and the municipal tipping fee set forth in subsection (g) shall not
11 be applicable for the fiscal year.

12 (l) On or after the date established for separation of recyclable solid waste in the
13 statewide plan for separation of recyclables by the department of environmental management,
14 only segregated solid waste shall be accepted at the corporation's facilities.

15 (m) Costs associated with participation in the state program shall not constitute state
16 mandated costs under § 45-13-7.

17 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 - RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY
CORPORATION

1 This act would require the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation to annually pay
2 six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to the town of Johnston in addition to any other monies paid to
3 the town by the corporation.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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