

2021 -- H 5288

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE
CORPORATION

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, Noret, Kazarian, and
Ackerman

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-64 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Commerce
2 Corporation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-64-42. Restricted receipts account - Small business disaster relief.**

4 (a) The secretary of the corporation shall establish, within the corporation's budget, a
5 restricted receipt account for the limited purpose of receiving and retaining all fines collected from
6 individuals, businesses and restaurants for violations of any policies or restrictions established by
7 the governor during any period of a state emergency declared by the governor pursuant to the
8 provisions of chapter 15 of title 30, including, but not limited to, the declaration of a state of
9 emergency for the pandemic virus known as COVID-19 issued in March 2020.

10 (b) The funds collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be made available
11 for all small businesses in the form of forgivable loans or grants as determined by the corporation
12 in its discretion.

13 (c) The commerce corporation shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
14 provisions of this section.

15 (d) All state departments and agencies involved in the assessment or collection of fines
16 related to violations of any policies or restrictions established by the governor during any period of
17 a state of emergency declaration shall transfer all collected funds to the secretary of commerce for
18 deposit into the restricted receipt account for distribution.

1 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE
CORPORATION

1 This act would establish a restricted receipt account within the commerce corporation for
2 the receipt and retention of all fines collected by state departments and agencies from individuals
3 and businesses violating policies or procedures during a state of emergency (including COVID-19)
4 for distribution to small businesses in the form of forgivable loans or grants by the corporation.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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