

2021 -- H 6318

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE PARKING AREAS UNDER THE GOVERNANCE OF THE DEM

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Carson, Tanzi, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, McEntee, McGaw, and Cassar

Date Introduced: May 07, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

1 WHEREAS, That Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is
2 responsible for the control, custody, governance, and use of state Management Areas, State Parks,
3 and other areas operated and maintained by the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and
4 Recreation, and Forest Environment within the Department of Environmental Management; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island State Parks & Recreation is a division of the Rhode Island
6 Department of Environmental Managements (DEM) Bureau of Natural Resources. The Bureau
7 protects, manages, restores, and promotes the state's wide array of historic parks, beaches,
8 recreational facilities, and green spaces; and

9 WHEREAS, Usage of these areas include myriad recreational opportunities and also
10 impacts the state's economy and ability to attract people and businesses. Currently, Rhode
11 Island's parks contribute an estimated \$312 million of economic output and supports over 3,700
12 jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 2, 2021, RI voters approved a \$33 million bond to "be invested in
14 cleaning our water, improving public health and the resilience of our communities, and creating
15 more inviting beaches, parks and campgrounds for the enjoyment of all Rhode Islanders"; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, part of that bond is being expended to make changes to park
17 capacity, access points, traffic flow patterns, and to revamp a number of parking area locations
18 under the supervision of DEM, ultimately resulting in a reduction in the available number of
19 parking spaces. These changes are reportedly being taken for the safety of all visitors and staff;

1 now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
3 respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to submit a
4 report on changes to the parking areas under the governance of the DEM including:

- 5 • The current number of available parking spaces at each location;
- 6 • Parking areas to be revamped;
- 7 • Estimated number of parking spaces lost or gained at each area; and
- 8 • The cost for the parking changes at each location; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests the Director of DEM to
10 provide this report on or before June 1, 2021; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the
13 State of Rhode Island, and Janet L. Coit, DEM Director.

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