

2022 -- H 8179

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LC005855
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Introduced By: Representative Lauren H. Carson

Date Introduced: April 28, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, On April 14, 2021, the 2021 Act on Climate was signed into law,
2 establishing a statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction mandate and setting mandatory,
3 enforceable climate emissions reduction goals; and

4 WHEREAS, The inclusion of Environmental Justice is a requirement of the Act on
5 Climate, necessitating an equitable transition to climate compliance for environmental justice
6 populations and redress of past environmental and public health inequities; and

7 WHEREAS, In order to address these inequities, the engagement and prioritization of
8 certain communities, especially frontline communities -- Black, Indigenous, People of Color,
9 communities with high levels of air pollution, and low-income communities, who are most
10 vulnerable to the effects of climate change and at risk of pollution, displacement, energy burden,
11 and cost, need to have inclusion in the process and influence within the plan; and

12 WHEREAS, The creation of a Community Outreach and Engagement, Environmental
13 Justice and Social Equity Program to prioritize justice and equity, and public participation by
14 following best practices and proven examples, with a focus on improved communication with
15 vulnerable, overburdened and disadvantaged communities, key stakeholders, and the general
16 public is vital; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition, recommendations for defining overburdened and underserved
18 communities, building on existing criteria and definitions where applicable, and metrics to
19 evaluate how investments of funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that demonstrably provide

1 direct and meaningful benefits for overburdened and underserved communities are essential; and

2 WHEREAS, The Community Outreach and Engagement, Environmental Justice and
3 Social Equity Program development shall be led by a state employee, solely dedicated to
4 accomplishing the objectives of the Program, under the direction of the EC4, its Advisory Boards
5 and other Rhode Island cross-agencies or other collaborative efforts and would lead the
6 implementation of the Act on Climate environmental justice and social equity policies in
7 consultation with DEM and DOH staff, community and other stakeholders; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
9 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2022-2023, the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand
10 dollars (\$150,000) to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to create an
11 Community Outreach and Engagement, Environmental Justice and Social Equity Program to
12 prioritize justice and equity and public participation; and the state controller is hereby authorized
13 and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so
14 much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated
15 vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$150,000 to the
- 2 Department of Environmental Management.

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