## 2022 -- S 2415

LC003638

## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022**

### AN ACT

## RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - MERIT SYSTEM - TELEWORKING PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Calkin, Acosta, Anderson, Kallman, Mendes, and Bell

Date Introduced: February 15, 2022

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 36-4 of the General Laws entitled "Merit System" is hereby amended

by adding thereto the following section:

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36-4-66. Teleworking program.

4 (a) Each state agency and department within the executive branch, shall establish a policy

5 and program to allow their employees to perform all or a portion of their duties through

teleworking, to the maximum extent possible, without diminishing employee performance. Each

agency and department shall designate a "telework coordinator" to be responsible for overseeing

the institution and implementation of the teleworking program.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "telework" means to perform normal and

10 regular work functions on a workday, that ordinarily would be performed at the agency or

11 <u>department's principal location, at a different location, thereby eliminating or substantially reducing</u>

the physical commute to and from such agency or department's principal location.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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## **EXPLANATION**

## BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

## AN ACT

# RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - MERIT SYSTEM - TELEWORKING PROGRAM

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This act would require all executive branch agencies and departments to establish and administer a teleworking program to allow their employees to work at a different location, rather than their ordinary principal work location.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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