

ARTICLE 2

RELATING TO STATE FUNDS

SECTION 1. Chapter 35-4 of the General Laws entitled "State Funds" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

35-4-21.1. Medical debt relief program.

(a) There is hereby established a medical debt relief program to be administered by the general treasurer to be used to contract with a nonprofit corporation for the purchase, cancellation and forgiveness of medical debts upon the following conditions:

(1) That the debt was incurred in order to obtain medical services, products, and/or devices;

(2) That the debts are in collection or have been sold or assigned by the original provider;

and

(3) That the debt is owed by a citizen of the state whose federal adjusted gross income is four hundred percent (400%) or less than the federal poverty line or whose debt is more than five percent (5%) of the citizen's adjusted gross income as measured by the prior tax return or the estimated return in the current year.

(b) Any citizen of this state whose debt is discharged, cancelled or forgiven under this section shall be provided notice of the cancellation of the debt, but shall not have the amount cancelled included in the computation of taxable income for the purpose of state income taxes.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the definition of medical debts shall be liberally construed so as to not reduce the types of debt that may be subject to cancellation so long as they arise from medical transport, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and/or rehabilitation.

(d) The general treasurer shall provide quarterly updates on the program to the chairpersons of the house and senate committees on finance beginning January 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. Section 35-4-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-4 entitled "State Funds" is hereby amended to read as follows:

35-4-27. Indirect cost recoveries on restricted receipt accounts.

Indirect cost recoveries of ten percent (10%) of cash receipts shall be transferred from all restricted-receipt accounts, to be recorded as general revenues in the general fund. However, there shall be no transfer from cash receipts with restrictions received exclusively: (1) From contributions from nonprofit charitable organizations; (2) From the assessment of indirect cost-recovery rates on

1 federal grant funds; or (3) Through transfers from state agencies to the department of administration
2 for the payment of debt service. These indirect cost recoveries shall be applied to all accounts,
3 unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, court order, or court settlement. The following
4 restricted receipt accounts shall not be subject to the provisions of this section:

- 5 Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- 6 Organ Transplant Fund
- 7 HIV Care Grant Drug Rebates
- 8 Health System Transformation Project
- 9 Rhode Island Statewide Opioid Abatement Account
- 10 HCBS Support-ARPA
- 11 HCBS Admin Support-ARPA
- 12 Department of Human Services
- 13 Veterans' home — Restricted account
- 14 Veterans' home — Resident benefits
- 15 Pharmaceutical Rebates Account
- 16 Demand Side Management Grants
- 17 Veteran's Cemetery Memorial Fund
- 18 Donations — New Veterans' Home Construction
- 19 [Commodity Supplemental Food Program-Claims](#)
- 20 Department of Health
- 21 Pandemic medications and equipment account
- 22 Miscellaneous Donations/Grants from Non-Profits
- 23 State Loan Repayment Match
- 24 Healthcare Information Technology
- 25 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
- 26 Eleanor Slater non-Medicaid third-party payor account
- 27 Hospital Medicare Part D Receipts
- 28 RICLAS Group Home Operations
- 29 [Group Home Facility Improvement Fund](#)
- 30 Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 31 Emergency and public communication access account
- 32 Department of Environmental Management
- 33 National heritage revolving fund
- 34 Environmental response fund II

1 Underground storage tanks registration fees
2 De Coppet Estate Fund
3 Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
4 Historic preservation revolving loan fund
5 Historic Preservation loan fund — Interest revenue
6 Department of Public Safety
7 E-911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System
8 Forfeited property — Retained
9 Forfeitures — Federal
10 Forfeited property — Gambling
11 Donation — Polygraph and Law Enforcement Training
12 Rhode Island State Firefighter’s League Training Account
13 Fire Academy Training Fees Account
14 Attorney General
15 Forfeiture of property
16 Federal forfeitures
17 Attorney General multi-state account
18 Forfeited property — Gambling
19 Department of Administration
20 OER Reconciliation Funding
21 Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund
22 RI Health Benefits Exchange
23 Information Technology restricted receipt account
24 Restore and replacement — Insurance coverage
25 Convention Center Authority rental payments
26 Investment Receipts — TANS
27 OPEB System Restricted Receipt Account
28 Car Rental Tax/Surcharge-Warwick Share
29 Grants Management Administration
30 RGGI-Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council Projects
31 [Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Operating and Maintenance Account](#)
32 ~~Executive Office of Commerce~~ [Department of Housing](#)
33 Housing Resources ~~Commission~~ [and Homelessness](#) Restricted [Receipt](#) Account
34 Housing Production Fund

1 [Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Fund](#)
2 Department of Revenue
3 DMV Modernization Project
4 Jobs Tax Credit Redemption Fund
5 Legislature
6 Audit of federal assisted programs
7 Department of Children, Youth and Families
8 Children’s Trust Accounts — SSI
9 Military Staff
10 RI Military Family Relief Fund
11 RI National Guard Counterdrug Program
12 Treasury
13 Admin. Expenses — State Retirement System
14 Retirement — Treasury Investment Options
15 Defined Contribution — Administration - RR
16 Violent Crimes Compensation — Refunds
17 Treasury Research Fellowship
18 Business Regulation
19 Banking Division Reimbursement Account
20 Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Reimbursement Account
21 Securities Division Reimbursement Account
22 Commercial Licensing and Racing and Athletics Division Reimbursement Account
23 Insurance Division Reimbursement Account
24 Historic Preservation Tax Credit Account
25 Marijuana Trust Fund
26 Social Equity Assistance Fund
27 Judiciary
28 Arbitration Fund Restricted Receipt Account
29 Third-Party Grants
30 RI Judiciary Technology Surcharge Account
31 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
32 Statewide Student Transportation Services Account
33 School for the Deaf Fee-for-Service Account
34 School for the Deaf — School Breakfast and Lunch Program

1 Davies Career and Technical School Local Education Aid Account
2 Davies — National School Breakfast & Lunch Program
3 School Construction Services
4 Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
5 Higher Education and Industry Center
6 IGT STEM Scholarships
7 Department of Labor and Training
8 Job Development Fund
9 Rhode Island Council on the Arts
10 Governors' Portrait Donation Fund
11 Statewide records management system account

12 SECTION 3. Sections 37-7-13 and 37-7-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-7 entitled
13 "Management and Disposal of Property" are hereby amended to read as follows:

14 **37-7-13. Surplus group homes.**

15 Any group home purchased or built by the state of Rhode Island and licensed pursuant to
16 ~~house~~ § 40.1-24-3, which is no longer used to house persons with disabilities and is vacant for a
17 period of one year must be offered for sale on the private housing market forthwith and shall
18 thereafter remain under the jurisdiction of the zoning enforcement officer and the zoning code of
19 that municipality in which the home is located. The zoning enforcement officer and zoning code
20 shall govern the use thereof. The group home shall not acquire any rights of a nonconforming use.
21 [Proceeds from the sale of group homes owned by the State of Rhode Island shall be transferred to](#)
22 [the group home facility improvement fund, pursuant to § 40.1-1-22.](#)

23 **37-7-15. Sale of state-owned land, buildings and improvements thereon and other real**
24 **property.**

25 (a) Total annual proceeds from the sale of any land and the buildings and improvements
26 thereon, and other real property, title to which is vested in the state of Rhode Island or title to which
27 will be vested in the state upon completion of any condemnation or other proceedings, [except for](#)
28 [the sale of group homes as referenced in § 37-7-13](#), shall be transferred to the information
29 technology restricted receipt account (ITRR account) and made available for the purposes outlined
30 in § 42-11-2.5(a), unless otherwise prohibited by federal law.

31 (b) Provided, however, this shall not include proceeds from the sale of any land and the
32 buildings and improvements thereon that will be created by the relocation of interstate route 195,
33 which is sometimes collectively referred to as the "I-195 Surplus Land," which land is identified
34 in the "Rhode Island Interstate 195 Relocation Surplus Land: Redevelopment and Market Analysis"

1 prepared by CKS Architecture & Urban Design dated 2009, and such term means those certain
2 tracts or parcels of land situated in the city of Providence, county of Providence, state of Rhode
3 Island, delineated on that certain plan of land captioned "Improvements to Interstate Route 195,
4 Providence, Rhode Island, Proposed Development Parcel Plans 1 through 10, Scale: 1"=20', May
5 2010, Bryant Associates, Inc., Engineers-Surveyors-Construction Managers, Lincoln, Rhode
6 Island, Maguire Group, Inc., Architects/Engineers/Planners, Providence, Rhode Island."

7 (c) Provided, however, the transfer of proceeds in subsection (a) of this section shall not
8 include proceeds from the sale of state-owned group homes or "community residences" as that term
9 is defined in § 40.1-24-1(2) and licensed by the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental
10 disabilities and hospitals. Proceeds from the sale of these properties will be transferred to the group
11 home facility improvement fund, pursuant to § 40.1-1-22.

12 ~~(e)~~(d) Subject to the approval of the director of the department of administration, the state
13 controller is authorized to offset any currently recorded outstanding liability on the part of
14 developmental disability organizations (DDOs) to repay previously authorized startup capital
15 advances against the proceeds from the sale of group homes within a fiscal year prior to any sale
16 proceeds being deposited into the information technology investment fund.

17 SECTION 4. Chapter 40.1-1 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Behavioral
18 Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals" is hereby amended by adding thereto the
19 following section:

20 **40.1-1-22. Group home facility improvement fund.**

21 There is created within the general fund of the state a restricted receipt account to be known
22 as the "group home facility improvement fund." Money transferred to this fund shall include, but
23 is not limited to, the proceeds from the surplus of state-owned group home facilities or "community
24 residences" as that term is defined in § 40.1-24-1(2) and licensed by the department of behavioral
25 healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals; and notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 37-
26 7-1 and 37-7-9, rents collected from provider agencies providing services in state-owned group
27 homes or "community residences" as that term is defined in § 40.1-24-1(2) and licensed by the
28 department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals. All money in the
29 account shall by utilized by the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and
30 hospitals ("department") to fund the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of state-owned facilities as
31 defined by § 40.1-24-1(6). Use of the funds will be directed by the department's strategic priorities.
32 The group home facility improvement fund shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery
33 provisions of § 35-4-27.

34 SECTION 5. Section 42-6.2-3.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-6.2 entitled "2021 Act

1 on Climate" is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 **42-6.2-3.1. Funding for the council.**

3 There is hereby established a restricted receipt account in the general fund of the state and
4 housed in the budget of the department of administration entitled "RGGI-executive climate change
5 coordinating council projects." The express purpose of this account is to record receipts and
6 expenditures allocated pursuant to § 23-82-6(a)(7), and (8). The state budget officer is hereby
7 authorized to create restricted receipt sub-accounts in any department of state government that
8 receives such funding as directed by the executive climate change coordinating council.

9 The Rhode Island executive climate change coordinating council shall report annually to
10 the governor and general assembly within one hundred twenty (120) days of the end of each
11 calendar year how the funds were used to achieve the statutory objectives of the 2021 Act on
12 Climate.

13 SECTION 6. Section 42-11-2.5 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-11 entitled "Department
14 of Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **42-11-2.5. Information technology restricted receipt account and large systems**
16 **initiatives fund.**

17 (a) All sums from the sale of any land and the buildings and improvements thereon, and
18 other real property, title to which is vested in the state, except as provided in ~~§§ 37-7-15(b) and 37-~~
19 ~~7-15(e) § 37-7-15(b) through (d)~~, shall be transferred to an information technology restricted receipt
20 account (ITRR account) that is hereby established. This ITRR account shall consist of such sums
21 from the sale of any land and the buildings and improvements thereon, and other real property, title
22 to which is vested in the state, except as provided in ~~§§ 37-7-15(b) and 37-7-15(e) § 37-7-15(b)~~
23 ~~through (d)~~, as well as a share of first response surcharge revenues collected under the provisions
24 of § 39-21.1-14. This ITRR account may also consist of such sums as the state may from time to
25 time appropriate; as well as money received from the disposal of information technology hardware,
26 loan, interest, and service charge payments from benefiting state agencies; as well as interest
27 earnings, money received from the federal government, gifts, bequest, donations, or otherwise from
28 any public or private source. Any such funds shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery
29 provisions of § 35-4-27.

30 (1) This ITRR account shall be used for the purpose of acquiring information technology
31 improvements, including, but not limited to: hardware, software, consulting services, and ongoing
32 maintenance and upgrade contracts for state departments and agencies.

33 (2) The division of enterprise technology strategy and services of the Rhode Island
34 department of administration shall adopt rules and regulations consistent with the purposes of this

1 chapter and chapter 35 of this title, in order to provide for the orderly and equitable disbursement
2 of funds from this ITRR account.

3 (3) For all requests for proposals that are issued for information technology projects, a
4 corresponding information technology project manager shall be assigned.

5 (b) There is also hereby established a special fund to be known as the large systems
6 initiatives fund (LSI fund), separate and apart from the general fund of the state, to be administered
7 by the chief information officer within the department of administration for the purpose of
8 implementing and maintaining enterprise-wide software projects for executive branch departments.
9 The LSI fund shall consist of such sums as the state may from time to time directly appropriate to
10 the LSI fund. After the completion of any project, the chief digital officer shall inform the state
11 controller of unexpended sums previously transferred to the LSI Fund for that project and the state
12 controller shall subsequently transfer any such unexpended funds to the information technology
13 restricted receipt account.

14 (c) For any new project initiated using sums expended from the LSI Fund, as part of its
15 budget submission pursuant to § 35-3-4 relative to state fiscal year 2025 and thereafter, the
16 department of administration shall include a statement of project purpose and the estimated project
17 cost.

18 SECTION 7. Section 42-66-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-66 entitled "Office of
19 Healthy Aging" is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **42-66-4. Duties of the division.**

21 (a) The division shall be the principal agency of the state to mobilize the human, physical,
22 and financial resources available to plan, develop, and implement innovative programs to ensure
23 the dignity and independence of elderly persons, including the planning, development, and
24 implementation of a home- and long-term-care program for the elderly in the communities of the
25 state.

26 (b)(1) The division shall serve as an advocate for the needs of the adult with a disability as
27 these needs and services overlap the needs and services of elderly persons.

28 (2) The division shall serve as the state's central agency for the administration and
29 coordination of a long-term-care entry system, using community-based access points, that will
30 provide the following services related to long-term care: information and referral; initial screening
31 for service and benefits eligibility; and a uniform assessment program for state-supported long-
32 term care.

33 (3) The division shall investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-
34 neglect and shall provide and/or coordinate protective services.

- 1 (c) To accomplish these objectives, the director is authorized:
- 2 (1) To provide assistance to communities in solving local problems with regard to elderly
- 3 persons including, but not limited to, problems in identifying and coordinating local resources to
- 4 serve the needs of elderly persons;
- 5 (2) To facilitate communications and the free flow of information between communities
- 6 and the offices, agencies, and employees of the state;
- 7 (3) To encourage and assist communities, agencies, and state departments to plan, develop,
- 8 and implement home- and long-term care programs;
- 9 (4) To provide and act as a clearinghouse for information, data, and other materials relative
- 10 to elderly persons;
- 11 (5) To initiate and carry out studies and analyses that will aid in solving local, regional,
- 12 and statewide problems concerning elderly persons;
- 13 (6) To coordinate those programs of other state agencies designed to assist in the solution
- 14 of local, regional, and statewide problems concerning elderly persons;
- 15 (7) To advise and inform the governor on the affairs and problems of elderly persons in the
- 16 state;
- 17 (8) To exercise the powers and discharge the duties assigned to the director in the fields of
- 18 health care, nutrition, homemaker services, geriatric day care, economic opportunity, local and
- 19 regional planning, transportation, and education and pre-retirement programs;
- 20 (9) To further the cooperation of local, state, federal, and private agencies and institutions
- 21 providing for services or having responsibility for elderly persons;
- 22 (10) To represent and act on behalf of the state in connection with federal grant programs
- 23 applicable to programs for elderly persons in the functional areas described in this chapter;
- 24 (11) To seek, accept, and otherwise take advantage of all federal aid available to the
- 25 division, and to assist other agencies of the state, local agencies, and community groups in taking
- 26 advantage of all federal grants and subventions available for elderly persons and to accept other
- 27 sources of funds with the approval of the director of administration that shall be deposited as general
- 28 revenues;
- 29 (12) To render advice and assistance to communities and other groups in the preparation
- 30 and submission of grant applications to state and federal agencies relative to programs for elderly
- 31 persons;
- 32 (13) To review and coordinate those activities of agencies of the state and of any political
- 33 subdivision of the state at the request of the subdivision, that affect the full and fair utilization of
- 34 community resources for programs for elderly persons, and initiate programs that will help ensure

1 such utilization;

2 (14) To encourage the formation of councils on aging and to assist local communities in
3 the development of the councils;

4 (15) To promote and coordinate daycare facilities for the frail elderly who are in need of
5 supportive care and supervision during the daytime;

6 (16) To provide and coordinate the delivery of in-home services to the elderly, as defined
7 under the rules and regulations adopted by the office of healthy aging;

8 (17) To advise and inform the public of the risks of accidental hypothermia;

9 (18) To establish a clearinghouse for information and education of the elderly citizens of
10 the state, including, but not limited to, and subject to available funding, a web-based caregiver
11 support information center;

12 (19) **[As amended by P.L. 2019, ch. 110, § 2].** To establish and operate, in collaboration
13 with the departments of behavioral health, developmental disabilities and hospitals; human
14 services; and children youth and families regular community agencies supporting caregivers, a
15 statewide family-caregiver support association and a family-caregiver resource network to provide
16 and coordinate family-caregiver training and support services to include counseling and elder
17 caregiver respite services, which shall be subject to available funding, and include home
18 health/homemaker care, adult day services, assisted living, and nursing facility care; and

19 (19) **[As amended by P.L. 2019, ch. 130, § 2].** To establish and operate, in collaboration
20 with the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals; the
21 department of human services; the department of children, youth and families, and community
22 agencies supporting caregivers, a statewide family-caregiver support association and a family-
23 caregiver resource network to provide and coordinate family-caregiver training and support
24 services to include counseling and caregiver respite services, which shall be subject to available
25 funding, and include home health/homemaker care, adult day services, assisted living, and nursing
26 facility care; and

27 (20) To supervise the citizens' commission for the safety and care of the elderly created
28 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1.4 of title 12.

29 (d) In order to assist in the discharge of the duties of the division, the director may request
30 from any agency of the state information pertinent to the affairs and problems of elderly persons.

31 (e) There is hereby established within the general fund of the state and housed within the
32 budget of the office of healthy aging a restricted receipt account entitled "commodity supplemental
33 food program-claims" to account for funds collected in payment of claims for donated food losses,
34 pursuant to united states department of agriculture guidelines under the commodity supplemental

1 food program. Expenditures from this account shall be utilized by the office solely for the following
2 purposes:

3 (i) Purchase of replacement foods;

4 (ii) Payment of administrative costs;

5 (iii) Replacement of lost or improperly used funds;

6 (iv) For use as a salvage account in compliance with federal regulations.

7 SECTION 8. Chapter 42-140 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Energy
8 Resources Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **42-140-11. Electric vehicle charging stations operating and maintenance fund.**

10 (a) There is established a restricted receipts account within the general fund of the state, to
11 be known as the "electric vehicle charging stations operating and maintenance account", to be
12 administered by the office of energy resources for the purposes of installing, operating, and
13 maintaining electric vehicle charging stations on state properties.

14 (b) Effective January 1, 2025, the office of energy resources shall establish electric vehicle
15 charging station fees for electric vehicle charging stations operating on state properties.

16 (c) The office of energy resources shall post the proposed charging station fees on its
17 website and solicit public comment for a period of thirty (30) days.

18 (d) Funds deposited into the electric vehicle charging stations operating and maintenance
19 account shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery provisions of § 35-4-27.

20 SECTION 9. Section 5 shall take effect as of July 1, 2023. The remainder of the article
21 takes effect on July 1, 2024.