

2024 -- S 2805

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LC004365
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INCORPORATING THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lawson, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate Education

(Dept. of Education)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Chapter 395 of the Public Laws of 2017, as amended, entitled
2 "An Act Incorporating the Rhode Island Commission For National and Community Service" is
3 hereby further amended to read as follows:

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created a commission, the name of which is the Rhode
5 Island commission for national and community Service, d/b/a Serve RI (the "commission").

6 (b) The commission is organized for the following purposes: to carry out on behalf of the
7 State of Rhode Island the objectives of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as
8 amended.

9 (c) The powers of the commission shall be vested in a board of commissioners which will
10 have ~~twenty five (25)~~ no less than fifteen (15) voting members who have demonstrated a
11 commitment to public service. To the extent possible, membership of the commission shall be
12 reflective of Rhode Island's diverse population in terms of race, ethnicity, age, gender, and
13 geographic location.

14 (d)(1) The governor shall appoint ~~twenty five (25)~~ all voting members of the board of
15 commissioners. ~~The governor~~ and shall appoint the chair of the commission from among the voting
16 members.

17 (2) Of the voting members of the board of commissioners, nine (9) shall be appointed for
18 initial terms of three (3) years beginning September 1, 2017; eight (8) shall be appointed for initial

1 terms of two (2) years beginning September 1, 2017; and eight (8) shall be appointed for initial
2 terms of one year beginning September 1, 2017. Thereafter, appointments shall be made for terms
3 of three (3) years. A vacancy in the office of a commissioner, created, other than by expiration of
4 a term, or in the office of a chairperson shall be filled in like manner as an original appointment but
5 only for the unexpired portion of the term. Members shall be eligible to succeed themselves;
6 however, members shall not be appointed to successive terms totaling more than eight (8) years.

7 (3) The governor shall appoint ~~twenty-five (25)~~ voting members with a minimum of one
8 member selected from each of the following categories:

9 (i) An individual with expertise in the educational training and developmental needs of
10 youth, particularly disadvantaged youth; and

11 (ii) An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of older adults fifty-five
12 (55) years old or over) in service and volunteerism; and

13 (iii) A representative of community-based agencies within the state; and

14 (iv) A representative of local government; and

15 (v) A representative of a local labor organization; and

16 (vi) A representative of a for-profit business; and

17 (vii) An individual between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-five (25) who is, or has
18 been a participant or supervisor in a volunteer or service program; and

19 (viii) A representative of a national service program; and

20 (ix) A representative of the volunteer sector; and

21 ~~(x)~~(x) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education or his or her designee
22 and the commissioner of postsecondary education or his or her designee.

23 (4) In addition, the governor shall have the authority to appoint nonvoting members to the
24 board of commissioners, one of whom shall be the designated representative of the Corporation of
25 National and Community Service. Other nonvoting members shall serve at the pleasure of the
26 governor.

27 (5) To the extent practicable, members of the board of commissioners shall be appointed
28 in the manner described by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended 42
29 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)

30 (6) Not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members of the board of
31 commissioners may be officers and/or employees of state government, although additional state
32 agency representatives may be appointed to the board of commissioners as nonvoting members.

33 (7) Not more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting members of the board of commissioners
34 plus one voting member may be from the same political party.

1 (8) The members of the board of commissioners will receive no compensation for their
2 services, except that members are entitled to compensation for expenses incurred in the
3 performance of their duties on the commission in the same manner as state employees.

4 (e) The commission will act on behalf of the state to:

5 (1) Prepare and implement a three-year (3) national service plan for the state as called for
6 under the National Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, including conducting local
7 outreach to develop a comprehensive and inclusive state service plan, and coordinating with
8 existing programs in order to prevent unnecessary competition for private sources of funding;

9 (2) Administer a competitive process to select the national service programs to be included
10 in any application for funding and prepare and submit the annual state applications for federal
11 funding of commission-selected national service programs;

12 (3) Administer the grants and oversee the monitoring of the programs after the national
13 service funds are awarded;

14 (4) Fulfill federal program administration requirements, such as assisting in the provision
15 of health care and child care for program participants;

16 (5) Integrate new national service programs and existing ACTION and Older American
17 Volunteer Programs into the state strategic service plan;

18 (6) Provide technical assistance to service programs, including the development of training
19 methods and curriculum materials;

20 (7) Develop a statewide recruitment and placement system for individuals interested in
21 community service opportunities;

22 (8) Prepare annual reports on progress for submission to the governor and the general
23 assembly; and

24 (9) Identify and make application for financial support, particularly funding made available
25 under the National and Community Service Trust Action of 1990, as amended to sustain the
26 commission's program and activities and to receive gifts and grants from public and private
27 sources.

28 (g) Any conflicts of interest that arise will be resolved as prescribed by the Corporation for
29 National and Community Service.

30 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO INCORPORATING THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 1 This act would reduce the number of commissioners on the board of commissioners to no
- 2 less than fifteen and would add a d/b/a Serve RI designation after commissions name.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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