

2025 -- H 5945

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- MERIT SYSTEM

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Finkelman, Tanzi, and Morales

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House 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
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **36-4-15.1. Specialized information technology positions in state service.**

4 (a) For purposes of this section: "specialized information technology position" means a
5 technical or specialized job classification in state service under the supervision and/or purview of
6 the division of enterprise technology strategy and services ("ETSS"), within the department of
7 administration. Such positions may include, but are not limited to, information technology
8 leadership roles (i.e., chief information officer, chief technology officer, chief information security
9 officer, etc.) software/application/cloud architects, engineers, developers and/or programmers,
10 cybersecurity professionals, artificial intelligence analysts, data/database/cloud administrators, and
11 any other information technology positions of a specialized and/or technical nature.

12 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law or regulation to the
13 contrary, including the personnel rules adopted pursuant to § 36-4-8, the personnel administrator,
14 in their sole discretion, may modify, change or amend any official pay plan for employees in the
15 classified or unclassified service in order to create new job classifications, and/or modify the title,
16 content or pay grade of an existing job classification, for any new or existing specialized
17 information technology positions.

18 (c) The personnel administrator is hereby authorized to take whatever administrative action
19 is necessary to implement the changes to the official pay plans made pursuant to this section with

1 respect to new or existing specialized information technology positions without conducting a public
2 hearing or obtaining the approval of the governor prior to the implementation of any such action.

3 (d) Within thirty (30) days after any personnel action under this section, the personnel
4 administrator shall file a written report with the governor, the speaker of the house, the senate
5 president, and the chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees. This report shall
6 include:

7 (1) The title and paygrade of the position(s);

8 (2) The job description of the position; and

9 (3) The reason why the position is necessary. The personnel administrator shall also post
10 the report on the division of human resources' website for at least one year.

11 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any specialized information technology
12 position utilized by ETSS that is part of a collective bargaining unit established and certified by the
13 Rhode Island state labor relations board.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- MERIT SYSTEM

1 This act would provide for the creation of a new job classification for new or existing
2 specialized information technology positions.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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