

ARTICLE 5

RELATING TO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SECTION 1. Proposition to be submitted to the people. -- At the general election to be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November 2026, there shall be submitted to the people ("People") of the State of Rhode Island ("State"), for their approval or rejection, the following proposition:

"Shall the action of the general assembly, by an act passed at the January 2026 session, authorizing the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes of the State of Rhode Island for the capital projects and in the amount with respect to each such project listed below be approved, and the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and/or temporary notes authorized in accordance with the provisions of said act?"

Project

(1) Higher Education Facilities \$275,000,000

Approval of this question will allow the State to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and/or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed two hundred and seventy-five million dollars (\$275,000,000) for capital improvements to higher education facilities, to be allocated as follows:

(a) University of Rhode Island Integrated Health Building \$165,000,000

Provides one hundred and sixty-five million dollars (\$165,000,000) for the construction of the new Integrated Health Building on the University of Rhode Island's Kingston campus to advance health education, clinical training, and workforce development.

(b) RIC Adams Library Renovations \$50,000,000

Provides fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to fund the construction of a student success and career readiness center and renovations located at the Adams Library on the Rhode Island College campus.

(c) CCRI Workforce Innovation Center \$60,000,000

Provides sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to fund the construction of a new workforce innovation center located on the Warwick campus of the Community College of Rhode Island. Funds will be used for the construction of a modern career and technical educational facility designed to support workforce readiness and address critical workforce shortages in the State.

1 Provides five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in matching grants administered by the Rhode
2 Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to cities, towns and nonprofit
3 organizations for capital improvements to public historic sites, museums and cultural art centers
4 located in historic structures, and heritage museums throughout the State.

5 (5) Green Economy Bonds \$55,000,000

6 Approval of this question will allow the State to issue general obligation bonds, refunding
7 bonds, and/or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000)
8 for environmental and recreational purposes, to be allocated as follows:

9 (a) Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development \$3,000,000

10 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for up to eighty percent (80%) matching grants
11 to public, private, and/or non-profit entities for brownfield remediation projects.

12 (b) Facility Improvements \$12,000,000

13 Provides twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for the renovation and repair of existing
14 facilities and recreational venues as well as the development and construction of new facilities and
15 parks.

16 (c) Local Recreation Projects \$1,000,000

17 Provides one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for up to eighty percent (80%) matching grants
18 for municipalities to acquire, develop, or rehabilitate local recreational facilities to meet the
19 growing needs for active outdoor recreational facilities.

20 (d) Marine Infrastructure Development \$1,000,000

21 Provides one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to provide asset protection and emergency repair
22 needs for most facilities, including recreational facilities, marine infrastructure, and more.

23 (e) Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund \$25,000,000

24 Provides twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) to provide financial assistance to local
25 governmental units for restoring and/or improving resiliency of infrastructure, vulnerable coastal
26 habitats, and restoring rivers and stream floodplains. These funds will be prioritized to leverage
27 significant funds to support local programs to improve community resiliency, stormwater
28 abatement and public safety in the face of increased flooding, major storm events, and
29 environmental degradation.

30 (f) Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration \$7,000,000

31 Provides seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for activities to restore and protect the water
32 quality and enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Narragansett Bay
33 and the State's watersheds. Eligible activities include nonpoint source pollution abatement,
34 including stormwater management; nutrient loading abatement; commercial, industrial and

1 agricultural pollution abatement; and riparian buffer and watershed ecosystem restoration.

2 (g) Agriculture Land Preservation Commission \$3,000,000

3 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the agricultural land preservation
4 commission for farmland protection.

5 (h) Open Space Program \$3,000,000

6 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the State to acquire fee simple interest or
7 conservation easements to open space, watershed, and recreational lands.

8 SECTION 2. Ballot labels and applicability of general election laws. -- The Secretary of
9 State shall prepare and deliver to the State Board of Elections ballot labels for each of the projects
10 provided for in Section 1 hereof with the designations "approve" or "reject" provided next to the
11 description of each such project to enable voters to approve or reject each such proposition. The
12 general election laws, so far as consistent herewith, shall apply to this proposition.

13 SECTION 3. Approval of projects by the people. -- If a majority of the People voting on
14 the proposition in Section 1 hereof shall vote to approve any project stated therein, said project
15 shall be deemed to be approved by the People. The authority to issue bonds, refunding bonds and/or
16 temporary notes of the State shall be limited to the aggregate amount for all such projects as set
17 forth in the proposition, which has been approved by the People.

18 SECTION 4. Bonds for the capital development program. -- The General Treasurer is
19 hereby authorized and empowered, with the approval of the Governor, and in accordance with the
20 provisions of this Act to issue capital development bonds in serial form, in the name of and on
21 behalf of the State, in amounts as may be specified by the Governor in an aggregate principal
22 amount not to exceed the total amount for all projects approved by the People and designated as
23 "capital development loan of 2026 bonds." Provided, however, that the aggregate principal amount
24 of such capital development bonds and of any temporary notes outstanding at any one time issued
25 in anticipation thereof pursuant to Section 7 hereof shall not exceed the total amount for all such
26 projects approved by the People. All provisions in this Act relating to "bonds" shall also be deemed
27 to apply to "refunding bonds."

28 Capital development bonds issued under this Act shall be in denominations of one thousand
29 dollars (\$1,000) each, or multiples thereof, and shall be payable in any coin or currency of the
30 United States which at the time of payment shall be legal tender for public and private debts. These
31 capital development bonds shall bear such date or dates, mature at specified time or times, but not
32 mature beyond the end of the twentieth (20th) State fiscal year following the fiscal year in which
33 they are issued; bear interest payable semi-annually at a specified rate or different or varying rates:
34 be payable at designated time or times at specified place or places; be subject to express terms of

1 redemption or recall, with or without premium; be in a form, with or without interest coupons
2 attached; carry such registration, conversion, reconversion, transfer, debt retirement, acceleration
3 and other provisions as may be fixed by the General Treasurer, with the approval by the Governor,
4 upon each issue of such capital development bonds at the time of each issue. Whenever the
5 Governor shall approve the issuance of such capital development bonds, the Governor's approval
6 shall be certified to the Secretary of State; the bonds shall be signed by the General Treasurer and
7 countersigned by Secretary of State and shall bear the seal of the State. The signature approval of
8 the Governor shall be endorsed on each bond.

9 SECTION 5. Refunding bonds for the 2026 capital development program. -- The General
10 Treasurer is hereby authorized and empowered, with the approval of the Governor, and in
11 accordance with the provisions of this Act, to issue bonds to refund the 2026 capital development
12 program bonds, in the name of and on behalf of the State, in amounts as may be specified by the
13 Governor in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed the total amount approved by the People,
14 to be designated as "capital development program loan of 2026 refunding bonds" (hereinafter
15 "Refunding Bonds").

16 The General Treasurer with the approval of the Governor shall fix the terms and form of
17 any Refunding Bonds issued under this Act in the same manner as the capital development bonds
18 issued under this Act, except that the Refunding Bonds may not mature more than twenty (20) years
19 from the date of original issue of the capital development bonds being refunded.

20 The proceeds of the Refunding Bonds, exclusive of any premium and accrual interest and
21 net the underwriters' cost, and cost of bond issuance, shall, upon their receipt, be paid by the General
22 Treasurer immediately to the paying agent for the capital development bonds which are to be called
23 and prepaid. The paying agent shall hold the Refunding Bond proceeds in trust until they are applied
24 to prepay the capital development bonds. While such proceeds are held in trust, the proceeds may
25 be invested for the benefit of the State in obligations of the United States of America or the State.

26 If the General Treasurer shall deposit with the paying agent for the capital development
27 bonds the proceeds of the Refunding Bonds, or proceeds from other sources, amounts that, when
28 invested in obligations of the United States or the State, are sufficient to pay all principal, interest,
29 and premium, if any, on the capital development bonds until these bonds are called for prepayment,
30 then such capital development bonds shall not be considered debts of the State for any purpose
31 starting from the date of deposit of such monies with the paying agent. The Refunding Bonds shall
32 continue to be a debt of the State until paid.

33 The term "bond" shall include "note," and the term "refunding bonds" shall include
34 "refunding notes" when used in this Act.

1 SECTION 6. Proceeds of the capital development program. -- The General Treasurer is
2 directed to deposit the proceeds from the sale of capital development bonds issued under this Act,
3 exclusive of premiums and accrued interest and net the underwriters' cost, and cost of bond
4 issuance, in one or more of the depositories in which the funds of the State may be lawfully kept in
5 special accounts (hereinafter cumulatively referred to as the "capital development bond fund")
6 appropriately designated for each of the projects set forth in Section 1 hereof which shall have been
7 approved by the People to be used for the purpose of paying the cost of all such projects so
8 approved.

9 All monies in the capital development bond fund shall be expended for the purposes
10 specified in the proposition provided for in Section 1 hereof under the direction and supervision of
11 the Director of Administration (hereinafter referred to as "Director"). The Director or his or her
12 designee shall be vested with all power and authority necessary or incidental to the purposes of this
13 Act, including but not limited to, the following authority: (a) To acquire land or other real property
14 or any interest, estate or right therein as may be necessary or advantageous to accomplish the
15 purposes of this Act; (b) To direct payment for the preparation of any reports, plans and
16 specifications, and relocation expenses and other costs such as for furnishings, equipment
17 designing, inspecting and engineering, required in connection with the implementation of any
18 projects set forth in Section 1 hereof; (c) To direct payment for the costs of construction,
19 rehabilitation, enlargement, provision of service utilities, and razing of facilities, and other
20 improvements to land in connection with the implementation of any projects set forth in Section 1
21 hereof; and (d) To direct payment for the cost of equipment, supplies, devices, materials and labor
22 for repair, renovation or conversion of systems and structures as necessary for the 2026 capital
23 development program bonds or notes hereunder from the proceeds thereof. No funds shall be
24 expended in excess of the amount of the capital development bond fund designated for each project
25 authorized in Section 1 hereof. With respect to the bonds and temporary notes described in Section
26 1, the proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

27 Question 1, relating to bonds in the amount of two hundred and seventy-five million dollars
28 (\$275,000,000) to provide funding for higher education facilities to be allocated as follows:

29 (a) University of Rhode Island Integrated Health Building \$165,000,000

30 Provides one hundred and sixty-five million dollars (\$165,000,000) for the construction of
31 the new Integrated Health Building on the University of Rhode Island's Kingston campus to
32 advance health education, clinical training, and workforce development.

33 (b) RIC Adams Library Renovations \$50,000,000

34 Provides fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to fund the construction of a student success

1 and career readiness center and renovations located at the Adams Library the Rhode Island College
2 campus.

3 (c) CCRI Workforce Innovation Center \$60,000,000

4 Provides sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to fund the construction of a new workforce
5 innovation center located on the Warwick campus of the Community College of Rhode Island.
6 Funds will be used for the construction of a modern career and technical educational facility
7 designed to support workforce readiness and address critical workforce shortages in the State.

8 Question 2, relating to bonds in the amount of one hundred and twenty million dollars
9 (\$120,000,000) to increase and preserve the availability of affordable and accessible housing to
10 meet the needs of all Rhode Islanders and support community revitalization through the
11 redevelopment of existing structures, new construction, property acquisition, and infrastructure
12 improvements. Of this amount, at least twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000), shall be allocated
13 towards increasing production of housing intended for homeownership and up to ten million dollars
14 (\$10,000,000) may be used to support public housing development.

15 Question 3, relating to bonds in the amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000)
16 to fund industrial facilities infrastructure improvements, to be allocated as follows:

17 (a) Site Development \$55,000,000

18 Provides fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) for land acquisition or assembly,
19 environmental remediation, infrastructure and utility installation, site preparation or development,
20 and project investments. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to, large-scale industrial site
21 development to create pad-ready locations and/or facilities, infrastructure improvements and
22 investments within the Quonset Business Park, and land acquisition, preparation, and project
23 investments within the I-195 District.

24 (b) Growth Industry Infrastructure \$45,000,000

25 Provides forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000) for infrastructure, facilities, projects, and
26 investments that support Rhode Island's ocean, defense, life sciences, data analytics and related
27 industries. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to, water-based test ranges and onshore ocean
28 or defense-related innovation/production facilities, as well as facilities, projects, and investments
29 that advance businesses and job growth in the life sciences.

30 Question 4, relating to bonds in the amount of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to provide
31 funding for cultural economy efforts to be allocated as follows:

32 (a) State History Center \$45,000,000

33 Provides forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000) for the construction of a new Rhode
34 Island State History Center.

1 (b) State Preservation Grants Program \$5,000,000

2 Provides five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in matching grants administered by the Rhode
3 Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to cities, towns and nonprofit
4 organizations for capital improvements to public historic sites, museums and cultural art centers
5 located in historic structures, and heritage museums throughout the State.

6 Question 5, relating to bonds in the amount of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) for
7 environmental and recreational purposes, to be allocated as follows:

8 (a) Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development \$3,000,000

9 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for up to eighty percent (80%) matching grants
10 to public, private, and/or non-profit entities for brownfield remediation projects.

11 (b) Facility Improvements \$12,000,000

12 Provides twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for the renovation and repair of existing
13 facilities and recreational venues as well as the development and construction of new facilities and
14 parks.

15 (c) Local Recreation Projects \$1,000,000

16 Provides one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for up to eighty percent (80%) matching grants
17 for municipalities to acquire, develop, or rehabilitate local recreational facilities to meet the
18 growing needs for active outdoor recreational facilities.

19 (d) Marine Infrastructure Development \$1,000,000

20 Provides one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to provide asset protection and emergency repair
21 needs for most facilities, including recreational facilities, marine infrastructure, and more.

22 (e) Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund \$25,000,000

23 Provides twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) to provide financial assistance to local
24 governmental units for restoring and/or improving resiliency of infrastructure, vulnerable coastal
25 habitats, and restoring rivers and stream floodplains. These funds will be prioritized to leverage
26 significant funds to support local programs to improve community resiliency, stormwater
27 abatement and public safety in the face of increased flooding, major storm events, and
28 environmental degradation.

29 (f) Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration \$7,000,000

30 Provides seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for activities to restore and protect the water
31 quality and enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Narragansett Bay
32 and the State's watersheds. Eligible activities include nonpoint source pollution abatement,
33 including stormwater management; nutrient loading abatement; commercial, industrial and
34 agricultural pollution abatement; and riparian buffer and watershed ecosystem restoration.

1 (g) Agriculture Land Preservation Commission \$3,000,000

2 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the agricultural land preservation
3 commission for farmland protection.

4 (h) Open Space Program \$3,000,000

5 Provides three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the State to acquire fee simple interest or
6 conservation easements to open space, watershed, and recreational lands.

7 SECTION 7. Sale of bonds and notes. -- Any bonds or notes issued under the authority of
8 this Act shall be sold at not less than the principal amount thereof, in such mode and on such terms
9 and conditions as the General Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall deem to be in the
10 best interests of the State.

11 Any premiums and accrued interest, net of the cost of bond issuance and underwriter's
12 discount, which may be received on the sale of the capital development bonds or notes shall become
13 part of the Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund of the State, unless directed by federal law or regulation
14 to be used for some other purpose.

15 In the event that the amount received from the sale of the capital development bonds or
16 notes exceeds the amount necessary for the purposes stated in Section 6 hereof, the surplus may be
17 used to the extent possible to retire the bonds as the same may become due, to redeem them in
18 accordance with the terms thereof or otherwise to purchase them as the General Treasurer, with the
19 approval of the Governor, shall deem to be in the best interests of the State.

20 Any bonds or notes issued under the provisions of this Act and coupons on any capital
21 development bonds, if properly executed by the manual or electronic signatures of officers of the
22 State in office on the date of execution, shall be valid and binding according to their tenor,
23 notwithstanding that before the delivery thereof and payment therefor, any or all such officers shall
24 for any reason have ceased to hold office.

25 SECTION 8. Bonds and notes to be tax exempt and general obligations of the State. -- All
26 bonds and notes issued under the authority of this Act shall be exempt from taxation in the State
27 and shall be general obligations of the State, and the full faith and credit of the State is hereby
28 pledged for the due payment of the principal and interest on each of such bonds and notes as the
29 same shall become due.

30 SECTION 9. Investment of monies in fund. -- All monies in the capital development fund
31 not immediately required for payment pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be invested by the
32 investment commission, as established by Chapter 10 of Title 35, entitled "State Investment
33 Commission," pursuant to the provisions of such chapter; provided, however, that the securities in
34 which the capital development fund is invested shall remain a part of the capital development fund

1 until exchanged for other securities; and provided further, that the income from investments of the
2 capital development fund shall become a part of the general fund of the State and shall be applied
3 to the payment of debt service charges of the State, unless directed by federal law or regulation to
4 be used for some other purpose, or to the extent necessary, to rebate to the United States treasury
5 any income from investments (including gains from the disposition of investments) of proceeds of
6 bonds or notes to the extent deemed necessary to exempt (in whole or in part) the interest paid on
7 such bonds or notes from federal income taxation.

8 SECTION 10. Appropriation. -- To the extent the debt service on these bonds is not
9 otherwise provided, a sum sufficient to pay the interest and principal due each year on bonds and
10 notes hereunder is hereby annually appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
11 appropriated.

12 SECTION 11. Advances from general fund. -- The General Treasurer is authorized, with
13 the approval of the Director and the Governor, in anticipation of the issue of notes or bonds under
14 the authority of this Act, to advance to the capital development bond fund for the purposes specified
15 in Section 6 hereof, any funds of the State not specifically held for any particular purpose; provided,
16 however, that all advances made to the capital development bond fund shall be returned to the
17 general fund from the capital development bond fund forthwith upon the receipt by the capital
18 development fund of proceeds resulting from the issue of notes or bonds to the extent of such
19 advances.

20 SECTION 12. Federal assistance and private funds. -- In carrying out this act, the Director,
21 or his or her designee, is authorized on behalf of the State, with the approval of the Governor, to
22 apply for and accept any federal assistance which may become available for the purpose of this
23 Act, whether in the form of loan or grant or otherwise, to accept the provision of any federal
24 legislation therefor, to enter into, act and carry out contracts in connection therewith, to act as agent
25 for the federal government in connection therewith, or to designate a subordinate so to act. Where
26 federal assistance is made available, the project shall be carried out in accordance with applicable
27 federal law, the rules and regulations thereunder and the contract or contracts providing for federal
28 assistance, notwithstanding any contrary provisions of State law. Subject to the foregoing, any
29 federal funds received for the purposes of this Act shall be deposited in the capital development
30 bond fund and expended as a part thereof. The Director or his or her designee may also utilize any
31 private funds that may be made available for the purposes of this Act.

32 SECTION 13. Effective Date. -- Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and this Section 13 of this article
33 shall take effect upon passage. The remaining sections of this article shall take effect when and if
34 the State Board of Elections shall certify to the Secretary of State that a majority of the qualified

- 1 electors voting on the proposition contained in Section 1 hereof have indicated their approval of all
- 2 or any projects thereunder.