

2026 -- H 7423

=====
LC003777
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Spears, Potter, Cortvriend, Boylan, Carson,
McGaw, DeSimone, Cotter, and Fogarty
Date Introduced: January 30, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-11 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Administration"
- 2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **42-11-10.2. Statewide wastewater capacity study.**
- 4 (a) The administrative head of the division of statewide planning ("division"), shall within
- 5 available appropriations and in coordination with the department of administration, the department
- 6 of environmental management and the executive office of housing, conduct a statewide wastewater
- 7 capacity study.
- 8 (b) The study shall evaluate the capacity, flows, physical condition, regulatory compliance,
- 9 and vulnerability to natural hazards of publicly and privately owned wastewater infrastructure
- 10 throughout the state.
- 11 (c) In conducting the study, the division shall:
- 12 (1) Identify areas underserved by wastewater infrastructure;
- 13 (2) Identify existing and projected wastewater capacity limitations that constrain housing
- 14 production or economic development;
- 15 (3) Identify areas with excess wastewater capacity suitable for additional residential or
- 16 mixed-use development;
- 17 (4) Evaluate how wastewater infrastructure conditions affect housing affordability, density,
- 18 and location including assessment of the cumulative impact of adjacent developments and land use

1 applications; and
2 (5) Make recommendations for efficient and strategic investments in wastewater
3 infrastructure to support housing and economic development while protecting public health and the
4 environment.
5 (d) Not later than July 1, 2027, the division shall submit a written report of the findings and
6 recommendations to the governor and to the general assembly, including the house and senate
7 committees having jurisdiction over housing, municipal government, finance, and the environment.
8 (e) The administrative head of the division shall transmit the report to the state planning
9 council for consideration in updates to the state guide plan.
10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003777
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION

- 1
- This act would require that the division of statewide planning coordinate a wastewater
- 2
- capacity study to evaluate the capacity, flows, physical conditions, regulatory compliance and
- 3
- vulnerabilities to natural hazards of publicly and privately owned wastewater infrastructure.
- 4
- This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003777
=====