

2026 -- H 8271

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LC005958
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND
EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: March 11, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island, known as The Ocean State, boasts nearly four
2 hundred (400) miles of coastline and is home to a wide range of maritime industries, and the
3 fostering and maintenance of a highly integrated maritime economy in Rhode Island, including
4 manufacturing and research, serves to reinforce these competitive advantages of The Ocean State;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The mission of 401 Tech Bridge is to accelerate the development and
7 commercialization of dual use, innovative technologies within Rhode Island's Blue Economy,
8 serving as a collaborator to bring together industry leaders, government agencies, and academic
9 institutions to bridge research and development gaps and connect innovators with commercial
10 opportunities; and

11 WHEREAS, 401 Tech Bridge fosters cross-sector partnerships through state of the art
12 facilities and programs that drive economic growth and technological advancement in maritime
13 and defense industries; and

14 WHEREAS, Seaglidors are a nascent technology being developed in Rhode Island,
15 integral to its Blue Economy, designed to offer an all-electric, passenger-carrying, wing-in-
16 ground-effect vehicle built to service coastal routes, building on real-world-proven technology;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Seaglidors are positioned to help support the sustainability and economic
19 goals of Rhode Island, including eliminating thousands of tons of carbon and GHG emissions

1 yearly, expanding business and job training opportunities for Rhode Island's local economy,
2 bolstering Rhode Island's Blue Economy, increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and
3 other east coast hubs, and providing a sustainable travel option for environmentally conscious
4 residents, visitors, and tourists of Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Seaglidery are positioned to help provide Rhode Island residents with
6 business and workforce opportunities, as well as access to affordable travel, lower cargo costs,
7 quicker emergency response, and reduced highway congestion, all without any carbon emissions;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Seaglider Initiative (RISI) is a coalition of local Rhode
10 Island government, business, and community stakeholders that aim to assist with the awareness,
11 understanding, and adoption of seaglidery in Rhode Island, including through a core value of
12 involving local Rhode Island voices and ensuring that the benefits of seaglidery are shared by
13 Rhode Islanders and the entire Rhode Island ecosystem; and

14 WHEREAS, 401 Tech Bridge is uniquely positioned to support Rhode Island's Blue
15 Economy, including the development, manufacturing, and use of seaglidery, and 401 Tech Bridge
16 is committed to collaborating with RISI to help study and explore the benefits of seaglidery in
17 Rhode Island; now therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated to 401 Tech Bridge the sum of one
19 million dollars (\$1,000,000) to study and explore seaglidery in Rhode Island, in conjunction with
20 RISI, including conducting a seaglider feasibility study to understand, assess, and verify the use
21 and operation of seaglidery in Rhode Island in order to position Rhode Island to realize the
22 benefits of eliminating thousands of tons of carbon and GHG emissions yearly, expanding
23 business and job training opportunities for Rhode Island's local economy, bolstering Rhode
24 Island's Blue Economy, increasing fast and flexible access to Rhode Island and other east coast
25 hubs, and providing a sustainable travel option for environmentally conscious residents, visitors,
26 and tourists of Rhode Island; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw
27 their orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be
28 from time to time be required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND
EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This resolution would make an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to 401 Tech Bridge to study
- 2 and explore seaglidars.

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