

2026 -- H 8299

LC006052

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) TO SUPPORT GREEN ECONOMY AND CLEAN ENERGY BOND INITIATIVES

Introduced By: Representative Terri Cortvriend

Date Introduced: March 13, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2027 includes an  
2 appropriation of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for energy efficiency infrastructure, now  
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not  
5 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2027 the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to  
6 support the green economy and clean energy bond initiatives as set forth in Article 5 of the  
7 Governor's proposed budget, relating to a capital development program and the state controller is  
8 hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of  
9 said sum, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers and said funds shall be specifically  
10 appropriated as follows:

11 Section 1. Appropriations

12 (1) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to support utility-scale geothermal energy and  
13 energy storage projects, including:

14 (i) Utility-scale thermal energy network pilot projects;

15 (ii) Battery energy storage projects that enhance grid reliability and resilience;

16 (2) Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to the Office of Energy Resources to support  
17 scaled and bundled residential energy affordability and distributed energy resources, including:

18 (i) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for residential weatherization and energy efficiency  
19 improvements

1 (ii) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for distributed energy resources, including rooftop  
2 solar, storage, and other clean energy technologies;

3 (3) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the department of transportation, or other  
4 appropriate state agencies, to support the implementation of the statewide transit master plan and  
5 or bicycle mobility plan; and

6 (4) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to support the installation of solar photovoltaic  
7 systems on public school buildings.

8 Section 2: Administration of Funds

9 (1) With respect to the funds allocated pursuant to Section 1, Project (1) of this resolution  
10 the Office of Energy Resources (“OER”) shall administer such funds to Rhode Island Energy.

11 (2) With respect to the funds allocated pursuant to Section 1, Project (2) of this act, the  
12 Office of Energy Resources (“OER”) shall administer such funds through a bundled project  
13 delivery model, to the maximum extent practicable, in order to create scale, reduce per-unit costs,  
14 and support consistent, high-quality project execution.

15 (3) OER shall develop program guidelines that allow qualified contractors to  
16 competitively bid on bundled projects or portfolios of work, rather than on a project-by-project  
17 basis, consistent with applicable state procurement laws. As a condition of eligibility to perform  
18 work funded under this subsection, OER shall establish a contractor vetting and qualification  
19 process and maintain a list of prequalified or preferred contractors, based on an assessment of  
20 whether a contractor:

21 (i) Holds all required licenses, registrations, and certifications to perform the work;

22 (ii) Is in compliance with state and federal payroll, tax, unemployment insurance, and  
23 prevailing wage laws, where applicable;

24 (iii) Demonstrates a history of safety compliance and successful completion of similar  
25 projects;

26 (iv) Demonstrates a commitment to apprenticeship utilization, workforce training, and  
27 fair labor practices; and

28 (v) Has not been debarred, suspended, or had relevant credentials revoked by any federal,  
29 state, or local government agency.

30 (4) Compliance with such standards shall be a condition of contract award, and OER  
31 shall retain the authority to remove contractors from eligibility for failure to maintain compliance.

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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 TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) TO  
SUPPORT GREEN ECONOMY AND CLEAN ENERGY BOND INITIATIVES

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- 1           This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of twenty million dollars
- 2   (\$20,000,000) to support the green economy and clean energy bond initiatives as set forth in the
- 3   Governor's proposed budget, relating to a capital development program.

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