

2025 -- S 0865

LC001707

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE INVESTMENT COMMISSION

Introduced By: Senators Vargas, Urso, LaMountain, Bissailon, DiPalma, Lawson,
Britto, Appollonio, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 21, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

(General Treasurer)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 35-10 of the General Laws entitled "State Investment Commission"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **35-10-16. Capital access initiative.**

4 (a) On or before January 1, 2026, the commission shall adopt a policy to create and
5 implement a capital access initiative intended to engage traditionally disadvantaged investment
6 managers with underrepresented backgrounds to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with sound
7 investment policy and fiduciary prudence. This policy shall include quantifiable goals for the
8 ongoing development and expansion of the capital access initiative, particularly as it relates to
9 increasing the participation of a broader range of investment managers in the stewardship of state
10 pension fund assets.

11 (b) Through the capital access initiative, the commission and the office of the general
12 treasurer shall take affirmative steps to remove any barriers to the equal participation of
13 underrepresented investment managers so long as such participation is consistent with sound
14 investment policy and fiduciary prudence. Such affirmative steps shall include, but not be limited
15 to, evaluating whether current investment policies impose quantitative or qualitative restrictions
16 such as requirements for a minimum track record length or assets under management, or whether
17 they overlook unique investment strategies and perspectives that could enhance pension fund
18 performance.

19 (c) It shall be the goal of the commission that not less than ten percent (10%) of investment

1 managers managing the state pension fund shall be qualified through the capital access initiative.

2 (d) Beginning in fiscal year 2027, the general treasurer shall prepare a report detailing its
3 progress toward achieving the policies and goals outlined in this section to the commission for its
4 approval within six (6) months of the end of the fiscal year. Upon approval by the commission, the
5 general treasurer shall transmit the report to the speaker of the house of representatives, the
6 president of the senate and the chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees. Such
7 report shall include documentation related to all participants in the capital access initiative.

8 (e) Participation in the capital access initiative shall be limited to underrepresented
9 investment managers. For purposes of this section, an “underrepresented investment manager”
10 shall include, but is not limited to, a qualified investment adviser that is:

11 (1) At least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more minorities or women or, in the
12 case of a publicly owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock which is owned by
13 one or more minorities or women; and/or

14 (2) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more such
15 individuals.

16 (f) For the purposes of this section, the term “minority” shall have the same meaning as in
17 § 37-14.1-3.

18 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 PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE INVESTMENT COMMISSION

1 This act would require the state investment commission to create a capital access initiative
2 to expand potential investment opportunities for the state's pension fund and engage qualified but
3 traditionally underrepresented investment managers.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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