

2025 -- S 0996 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002805/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR
A REDEMPTION AND RECYCLING PLAN

Introduced By: Senators McKenney, Tikoian, Britto, Lawson, Sosnowski, LaMountain,
Murray, Gu, Vargas, and Urso
Date Introduced: May 02, 2025

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1
- SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
- 2
- amended by adding thereto the following chapter:
- 3
- [CHAPTER 19.19](#)
- 4
- [THE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR A REDEMPTION AND RECYCLING PLAN](#)
- 5
- 23-19.19-1. Short title.**
- 6
- [This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Statewide Needs Assessment for a](#)
- 7
- [Redemption and Recycling Plan".](#)
- 8
- 23-19.19-2. Statewide needs assessment for a redemption and recycling plan.**
- 9
- [\(a\) The department of environmental management \(DEM\), in collaboration with the](#)
- 10
- [department of administration \(DOA\), and the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation](#)
- 11
- [\(RIRRC\), shall commission a statewide needs assessment to determine the infrastructure, policy,](#)
- 12
- [and programmatic requirements necessary to support a state-wide redemption and recycling plan](#)
- 13
- [including packaging materials, paper products, standard and miniature size beverage containers](#)
- 14
- [including, but not limited to, aluminum and bimetal containers, glass containers, plastic containers,](#)
- 15
- [and other priority materials as designated by the department.](#)
- 16
- [\(b\) The department shall procure an independent third-party consultant with relevant](#)
- 17
- [expertise to conduct the assessment, which shall include:](#)
- 18
- [\(1\) A baseline solid waste and recycling analysis, which shall include an analysis of the](#)

1 following:

2 (i) A characterization of the statewide solid waste stream by material type, quantity, source,

3 and disposal method;

4 (ii) A breakdown of recyclable and compostable materials by jurisdiction, type, collection

5 method, and end-market destination;

6 (iii) An analysis of materials that are currently not captured but are recyclable; and

7 (iv) Current costs and revenues associated with municipal solid waste, recycling, and

8 composting operations, including tipping fees and contract terms.

9 (2) An infrastructure and capacity evaluation, which shall include an evaluation of the

10 following:

11 (i) An analysis and inventory of existing collection, sorting, and processing infrastructure,

12 including materials recovery facilities (MRFs), composting operations, and transfer stations;

13 (ii) An assessment of processing capacity gaps and identification of capital investments

14 required to expand local and regional processing;

15 (iii) A review of reuse and refill systems, including reverse logistics and retail-based

16 programs; and

17 (iv) An evaluation of current contamination and litter rates, material flow logistics, and

18 gaps in access to curbside and drop-off collection services.

19 (3) An assessment of environmental geographic considerations, which shall include an

20 assessment of the following:

21 (i) A demographic and geographic analysis of waste service access and participation;

22 (ii) An evaluation of public outreach, education, and participation in reuse and recycling

23 programs; and

24 (iii) Recommendations to enhance job quality, health and safety for facility and collection

25 workers.

26 (4) Economic and market impacts, which shall include the following:

27 (i) Identification of lost economic value due to landfilling of recyclable materials;

28 (ii) Job estimates and business opportunities related to increased material recovery,

29 recycling, and reuse;

30 (iii) Barriers and recommendations for developing local end-markets and supply chains

31 that utilize recovered and redeemed materials; and

32 (iv) A cost-benefit analysis of a redemption and comprehensive recycling program

33 framework for all impacted parties.

34 (5) A redemption and recycling plan design review, which shall include the following:

1 (i) An evaluation of successful redemption and recycling program designs in peer states;
2 (ii) Recommendations for a Rhode Island redemption fee; and
3 (iii) An analysis of environmental benefits, including greenhouse gas reductions, material
4 recovery targets, and reduced litter and marine debris.

5 (6) Suggested performance targets and phasing recommendations, which shall include the
6 following:

7 (i) Diversion goals, timetables, and metrics for assessing success under low, moderate, and
8 high-impact implementation scenarios;

9 (ii) Recommendations for investment timelines, education campaigns, and dashboard
10 designs, and reporting protocols to ensure transparency and accountability; and

11 (iii) Recommendations for addressing specific items in the waste stream including, but not
12 limited to, miniature size beverage containers.

13 (c) The needs assessment pursuant to this section shall be conducted with input from
14 municipalities, quasi-public agencies, and regional planning entities and shall include direct input
15 from industry stakeholders and impacted communities.

16 **23-19.19-3. Rhode Island redemption and recycling advisory council.**

17 (a) DEM shall convene a Rhode island redemption and recycling advisory council to
18 provide guidance, review preliminary findings, and make recommendations throughout the
19 assessment process.

20 (b) The advisory council shall include, but not be limited to:

21 (1) One representative from each municipal solid waste authority or public works
22 department serving a population greater than twenty thousand (20,000);

23 (2) One representative from a Rhode Island-based packaging or consumer goods producer;

24 (3) One representative from a materials recovery facility operating in Rhode Island;

25 (4) One representative from a composting or organics processing facility;

26 (5) One representative from a Rhode Island reuse or refill systems operator;

27 (6) One representative from a local environmental justice or waste advocacy organization;

28 (7) One academic or scientific expert on waste systems, environmental health, or circular
29 economy; and

30 (8) One representative from the commercial or retail sector, including hospitality, liquor,
31 or distribution.

32 **23-19.19-4. Rhode Island redemption and recycling advisory report.**

33 (a) The department shall, prior to the final report required by this section, hold at least one
34 public hearing to solicit input on the draft needs assessment before its finalization.

1 **(b) The final report, including findings and recommendations, shall be submitted to the**
2 **governor, the speaker of the house, the senate president, and the chairs of the house and senate**
3 **environment committees no later than December 28, 2026.**

4 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR
A REDEMPTION AND RECYCLING PLAN

- 1 This act would require the department of environmental management, in collaboration with
2 the department of administration, and the resource recovery corporation, to conduct a needs
3 assessment to support a redemption program for recycling.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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