

2012 -- H 7261

=====  
LC00815  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND  
PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Chippendale, Walsh, Bennett, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 26, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 140.4

4 THE RHODE ISLAND PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY

5 COMMISSION

6 **42-140.4-1. Establishment of commission -- Purposes.** – (a) There is hereby authorized,  
7 created and established an advisory commission to be known as “The Rhode Island petroleum  
8 savings and independence advisory commission” with the powers and duties set forth in this  
9 chapter.

10 (b) The purposes of this commission are to:

11 (1) To reduce Rhode Island’s reliance on petroleum-based fuels;

12 (2) To make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, and public utilities  
13 commission on how to reduce petroleum-based fuel consumption in Rhode Island;

14 (3) To provide informed stakeholder input into decisions regarding fossil fuels in the state  
15 and to inform the public and elected and appointed state officials of such opportunities, decisions,  
16 and implementation;

17 (4) To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of state policies and programs to reduce  
18 petroleum consumption; and

1           (5) To act on matters related to reducing petroleum consumption from the heating and  
2 transportation sectors in the state including, but not limited to, the creation of a petroleum savings  
3 and independence plan (“Plan”) that includes at least the following:

4           (i) A report, drawing on existing data and studies rather than new analyses, on petroleum  
5 consumption in Rhode Island and the impact of petroleum dependence on the state. The report  
6 must consider:

7           (A) Future petroleum costs to the drivers, homeowners, industries, and businesses of  
8 Rhode Island;

9           (B) Environmental, public health, and national security consequences of Rhode Island’s  
10 petroleum dependence;

11           (C) Local economic development opportunities, including job creation potential, of  
12 improving energy efficiency and moving to clean, renewable, in-state energy sources;

13           (D) Proposed targets for reducing Rhode Island’s total petroleum consumption that  
14 equals the maximum economically achievable savings. The targets may not provide less than a  
15 thirty percent (30%) overall reduction in petroleum consumption from 2007 levels by 2030 and a  
16 fifty percent (50%) overall reduction from 2007 levels by 2050; and

17           (E) Recommendations of the near-term and long-range strategies to achieve significant  
18 reductions in petroleum consumption to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the  
19 senate, and public utilities commission. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to  
20 the following:

21           (I) Promoting and incentivizing transportation alternatives to personal vehicle use,  
22 including expanding, investing in, and ensuring sustainable funding for public transportation  
23 including rail options, and offering incentives for commuters to use public transportation where  
24 available;

25           (II) Promoting and incentivizing other practices to reduce fuel use in transportation,  
26 including fuel efficient vehicles and carpooling, and establishing rebates or other consumer  
27 incentives for retiring older, inefficient vehicles;

28           (III) The rapid deployment of electric vehicles, through a combination of policies that  
29 include comprehensive planning with utilities, investments in electric vehicle infrastructure, and  
30 consumer tax incentives;

31           (IV) The implementation of “clean fuels” standards requiring transportation fuels above a  
32 certain emissions target to purchase offsets from fuel sources that produce lower carbon  
33 emissions;

34           (V) Coordinating land use and transportation planning where sensible to pursue

1 “complete streets” policies that create walkable and bikeable communities with access to public  
2 transit options, and to encourage growth in areas accessible by walking, biking, and public  
3 transportation;

4 (VI) Where possible, measures to reduce fuel use in aviation;

5 (VII) Diversifying energy sources for heating by expanding renewable sources;

6 (VIII) Creating programs to deliver home and commercial weatherization and efficiency  
7 improvements for households using oil for heat; and

8 (IX) Adopting other strategies that can help enable Rhode Island to achieve the oil  
9 reduction targets.

10 (c) The commission shall report to the general assembly by February 2013 with the plan,  
11 including recommendations for specific legislative and administrative actions. By February 2014,  
12 and by February every two (2) years thereafter, the advisory commission shall evaluate the state’s  
13 progress toward meeting the petroleum-reduction goals and update the plan to make additional  
14 recommendations as necessary to ensure that the state meet the oil savings targets.

15 **42-140.4-2. Composition of the commission.** – (a) The commission shall consist of six

16 (6) voting members representing the following entities and appointed by that entity:

17 (1) The department of environmental management;

18 (2) The office of energy resources;

19 (3) The department of transportation;

20 (4) The energy efficiency & resource management council;

21 (5) The renewable energy coordinating board; and

22 (6) The Rhode Island public transit authority;

23 (7) In addition, four (4) voting members shall be nominated and voted on by the  
24 commission’s voting members, as set forth above, with expertise in:

25 (8) Environmental issues;

26 (9) Deliverable fuels;

27 (10) Public transportation, transit-oriented development, and/or transportation policy; and

28 (11) Residential and low-income energy provision.

29 (b) The commission shall also consist of six (6) advisory, non-voting members,  
30 representing the following entities and appointed by that entity:

31 (1) The University of Rhode Island energy center;

32 (2) The University of Rhode Island transportation center; and

33 (3) Four (4) members of the Rhode Island general assembly;

34 (i) One representative from each party to be appointed by the speaker of the house;

1 (ii) One senator from each party to be appointed by the president of the senate.

2 (c) Members of the commission, with the exception of general assembly members, shall  
3 be appointed for a term of five (5) years and may be reappointed. General assembly members  
4 shall be appointed to two (2) year terms and may be reappointed.

5 **42-140.4-3. Powers and duties of the commission.** – (a) The board shall have the  
6 following powers and duties:

7 (1) Develop near-term and long-range strategic plans with respect to strategies to reduce  
8 petroleum consumption from the home heating and transportation sectors in Rhode Island;

9 (2) Identify, promote, and recommend policies to further reduce petroleum consumption  
10 in the state including, but not limited to, those issues set forth in this chapter; and

11 (3) Consider such other matters as it may deem appropriate to the fulfillment of its  
12 purposes, and advise the governor, the general assembly, other parties, and the public with regard  
13 to matters pertaining to its purposes and duties, which advice may include findings and  
14 recommendations.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC00815  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND  
PETROLEUM SAVINGS AND INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

\*\*\*

- 1           This act would establish the Rhode Island petroleum savings and independence advisory
- 2   commission.
- 3           The act would the effect upon passage.

=====  
LC00815  
=====