

2022 -- H 8007

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LC005548
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$300,000 FROM THE AMERICA RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO THE RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (RICAA) TO MITIGATE COSTS INCURRED PROVIDING NECESSARY ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMS TO ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND WORKING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES DURING RHODE ISLAND'S COVID RESPONSE EFFORTS

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Noret, Solomon, Shanley, Vella-Wilkinson, Baginski, Alzate, Felix, and McEntee

Date Introduced: March 18, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The funding provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
2 "provides a unique opportunity for state and local governments to make strategic investments in
3 long-lived assets, rebuild reserves to enhance financial stability, and cover temporary operating
4 shortfalls until economic conditions and operations normalize"; and

5 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Community Action Association (RICAA) is a trade
6 association for seven Community Action Agencies serving all 39 cities and towns and have, for
7 over fifty years, been a safety net for many Rhode Islanders in need; and

8 WHEREAS, Current funding from the State of Rhode Island is in the form of the
9 Community Action Fund (currently \$600,000) and is disbursed to the seven agencies based on
10 poverty data in each region; and

11 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately hit Rhode Island's
12 economically disadvantaged and working individuals and families on all levels; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout the pandemic, RIACC agencies have continued their operations
14 without interruption and adapted to the ever-changing environment by providing myriad
15 programs including food distribution along with home delivery for elder and disabled home
16 bound, remote Adult Education classes, telehealth, tele mental health, creating online applications
17 for service access, rental/mortgage and utility assistance including water, and redesigning
18 childcare facilities to meet the needs that occurred out of the pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, More than ever, the need for an increase in funding is clearly evident as the
2 pandemic has not yet reached an endemic and the rising costs, that low wage earners who come to
3 RIACC have to endure, makes the need for the agencies' services even greater in order to create
4 and maintain these essential programs; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money from the American
6 Rescue Plan Act in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2022-2023, the sum
7 of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the Rhode Island Community Action Association
8 for recovery assistance from the COVID-19 pandemic; and the state controller is hereby
9 authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum,
10 or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated
11 vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$300,000 to the Rhode
- 2 Island Community Action Association for funding to assist economically disadvantaged families
- 3 during the State's COVID-19 response efforts.

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