

2019 -- S 0188

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RHODE ISLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND NATIONAL GRID INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE CAUSES FOR THE
RECENT LOSS OF GAS UTILITY SERVICE ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Euer, DiPalma, Seveney, Coyne, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 31, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Beginning on Monday night, January 21, 2019, a natural gas shutdown on
2 Aquidneck Island affected 7,100 National Grid customers and occurred in the midst of a severely
3 bitter cold front that was hitting Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, With temperatures in the single digits until Tuesday morning and only rising
5 into the 20's later that day, Aquidneck Island residents who had lost their gas heat were forced to
6 scramble and quickly find new places to stay, be it with relatives or at a hotel. They were, at the
7 least, severely inconvenienced, and this emergency possibly imperiled the health of some
8 citizens, especially the elderly, the very young, and the infirm; and

9 WHEREAS, Area businesses were also impacted, as many were forced to close.
10 Employees lost wages and employers lost revenue as a result of this crisis; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, in conjunction
13 with the Rhode Island Attorney General and National Grid investigate and determine the causes
14 for the recent loss of gas utility service on Aquidneck Island; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests the Rhode Island Public Utilities
16 Commission to report back to the Senate on or before June 4, 2019; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of

- 1 the State of Rhode Island, Peter F. Neronha, Rhode Island Attorney General, Ms. Margaret
- 2 Curran, Chairperson of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, and Mr. Tim Horan,
- 3 President & COO, Rhode Island Jurisdiction, National Grid.

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