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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$300,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION FOR ALLOCATION TO THE DEFENSE ECONOMY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Seveney, Euer, and Felag

Date Introduced: June 05, 2019

Referred To: Senate Finance

1           WHEREAS, The Defense Economy Community Reinvestment Program was established  
2 by § 30-32-5.1 to "assist defense-dependent municipalities to develop and implement alternative  
3 economic diversification strategies that repurpose surplus defense facilities and properties...";  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The three Aquidneck Island communities (Middletown, Newport and  
6 Portsmouth) recently completed an Aquidneck Island Infrastructure Realignment Assessment.  
7 The Realignment Assessment presents opportunities to transfer ownership of selected US Navy  
8 infrastructure to local governments and/or other public and private entities; and

9           WHEREAS, The Navy's presence on the island has significantly declined since the  
10 infrastructure was constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Most of the US Navy properties north of  
11 Greene Lane are inactive and preparing for divestiture. Several are undergoing environmental  
12 assessment and cleanup activities. The infrastructure predominantly serves real estate, some of  
13 which offers attractive development opportunities. Five former tank farms and Navy support  
14 facilities, in particular, present attractive opportunities for development. Over 250 acres have  
15 views of Narragansett Bay; and

16           WHEREAS, Consistent with their plan for divestiture of these properties, the Navy has  
17 announced their desire to transfer ownership of the roadway, water, and sewer infrastructure  
18 serving properties north of Greene Lane to local governments and/or other public and private  
19 entities. The Aquidneck Island communities recognize the Navy's presence remains significant

1 and important to the Island's economy, and they regularly meet with Navy representatives to  
2 cooperatively address island-wide interests and issues; and

3 WHEREAS, The communities recognize that the Navy's request to transfer infrastructure  
4 assets provides an opportunity to acquire funding and implement improvements to their own  
5 infrastructure systems. This Assessment summarizes the general goals of the communities and  
6 key stakeholders, documents the assets proposed for transfer, and identifies opportunities for  
7 implementing a transfer of ownership that is amenable to all parties. The assets evaluated consist  
8 of:

- 9 • Portions of three roadways totaling approximately 18,100 LF;
- 10 • Approximately 65,000 LF of water distribution piping along with two booster stations,  
11 an underground reservoir, hydrants, valves, meters, and other appurtenances; and
- 12 • Approximately 28,000 LF of gravity sewer line and 18,000 LF of pressure sewer along  
13 with four pump stations, manholes, and other appurtenances.

14 WHEREAS, To that end, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is necessary to  
15 pursue a study of legal procedures and to perform hydraulic capacity and condition assessments  
16 of the roadway, water and sewer infrastructure. This infrastructure supports two of three RI's and  
17 Aquidneck Island's critical economic sectors, including military and related activities (such as the  
18 research-and-development sector) and marine related activities and boating; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
20 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2019-2020, the sum of three hundred thousand dollars  
21 (\$300,000) to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation for allocation to the Defense Economy  
22 Community Reinvestment Program; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to  
23 draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as  
24 may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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