



1 biennially between the president of the senate and the speaker of the house.

2 **22-7.10-2. Duties.** -- It shall be the duty of the joint committee on energy to promote and  
3 encourage the development of effective and efficient plans, programs, strategies, and standards  
4 for energy conservation, energy efficiency, and energy resource procurement, use and  
5 development, including renewable energy, and in the furtherance to this purpose, it shall be the  
6 duty of the joint committee to provide oversight of the implementation of standard offer service  
7 through 2020 and all agencies and instrumentalities of the state with responsibility for energy  
8 programs, including, but not limited to, the office of energy resources, the Rhode Island energy  
9 efficiency and resources management council, the public utilities commission, and the division of  
10 public utilities.

11 **22-7.10-3. Reports and recommendations.** -- The joint committee on energy shall from  
12 time to time and at least annually report to the general assembly on its findings and the results of  
13 its studies, and make any recommendations to the general assembly and propose any legislation  
14 or initiate any studies that it shall deem advisable.

15 **22-7.10-4. References to committee.** -- Each branch of the legislature may refer to the  
16 joint committee, either initially or after action by other committees, all bills and resolutions  
17 dealing with or affecting energy.

18 **22-7.10-5. Technical assistance.** -- The joint committee shall, if it finds it cannot obtain  
19 proper assistance from available sources, contract for any technical services that it shall require to  
20 effectuate its purposes.

21 **22-7.10-6. Place of meeting - Quorum.** -- The joint committee on legislative services  
22 shall provide adequate space in the state house for the use of the joint committee on energy;  
23 provided, that the joint committee on energy may conduct hearings and hold meetings elsewhere  
24 when doing so will better serve its purposes. A majority in number of the joint committee on  
25 energy shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

26 SECTION 3. Section 35-4-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-4 entitled "State Funds"  
27 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 **35-4-27. Indirect cost recoveries on restricted receipt accounts.** -- Indirect cost  
29 recoveries of ten percent (10%) of cash receipts shall be transferred from all restricted receipt  
30 accounts, to be recorded as general revenues in the general fund. However, there shall be no  
31 transfer from cash receipts with restrictions received exclusively: (1) from contributions from  
32 non-profit charitable organizations; (2) from the assessment of indirect cost recovery rates on  
33 federal grant funds; or (3) through transfers from state agencies to the department of  
34 administration for the payment of debt service. These indirect cost recoveries shall be applied to

1 all accounts, unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, court order, or court settlement. The  
2 following restricted receipt accounts shall not be subject to the provisions of this section:

3 Department of Human Services

4 Veterans' home -- Restricted account

5 Veterans' home -- Resident benefits

6 Organ transplant fund

7 Department of Environmental Management

8 National heritage revolving fund

9 Environmental response fund II

10 Underground storage tanks

11 Rhode Island Council on the Arts

12 Art for public facilities fund

13 Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

14 Historic preservation revolving loan fund

15 Historic Preservation loan fund -- Interest revenue

16 State Police

17 Forfeited property -- Retained

18 Forfeitures -- Federal

19 Forfeited property -- Gambling

20 Attorney General

21 Forfeiture of property

22 Federal forfeitures

23 Attorney General multi-state account

24 Department of Administration

25 Restore and replacement -- Insurance coverage

26 Convention Center Authority rental payments

27 Investment Receipts -- TANS

28 Car Rental Tax/Surcharge-Warwick Share

29 Legislature

30 Audit of federal assisted programs

31 Department of Elderly Affairs

32 Pharmaceutical Rebates Account

33 [Affordable Energy fund](#)

34 SECTION 4. Section 37-7-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-7 entitled "Management

1 and Disposal of Property" is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 **37-7-9. Concessions, leases, and licenses -- Reports.** -- (a) The acquiring authority, with  
3 the approval of the state properties committee, is authorized and empowered when it shall serve  
4 the public purpose to grant concessions in or to lease or license any land or building or structure,  
5 a part or portion of any governmental facility, public work, or public improvement for industrial  
6 or commercial purposes for a term or terms not exceeding in the aggregate in any one case twenty  
7 (20) years; provided, however, that real property, buildings, and facilities owned by the state at  
8 the Port of Galilee may be leased for a term of up to forty (40) years for commercial fishing  
9 industry-related purposes, and provided further, however, that certain real properties, buildings,  
10 and facilities owned by the state in the city of Providence known as the Union Station properties,  
11 which properties have been conveyed from time to time to the state by the consolidated rail  
12 corporation and others, may be leased for a term of up to forty (40) years for office, commercial,  
13 service, transportation, or other related purposes; and provided further, however, that real  
14 property, buildings, and facilities owned by the state may be leased for a term of up to forty (40)  
15 years for the development of cogeneration projects which involve the simultaneous generation of  
16 electricity and thermal energy (steam and hot water) [and for eligible renewable energy resources](#)  
17 [as defined in subdivisions 39-26-5\(a\)\(i\) through \(v\)](#); and further provided, however, that in the  
18 event of a mobile home lease agreement, or site lease agreement, wherein such mobile home is  
19 contiguous to a resident owned mobile home park, the State Properties Committee may enter into  
20 a lease or grant concessions to or license any land or building for a period not to exceed thirty  
21 (30) years and provided further, however, that real property, buildings, and facilities owned by  
22 the state may be leased for a term of up to ninety-nine (99) years for the development of railroad  
23 layover facilities, contingent on the lease requiring the lessee to provide commuter rail service  
24 within the state of Rhode Island, as set forth by the state. All agreements, contracts, and other  
25 instruments granting concessions or leasing or licensing facilities shall contain such conditions,  
26 rules, restrictions, and regulations as the state purchasing agent shall deem suitable or necessary,  
27 and shall be approved as to substance by the director of administration and as to form by the  
28 attorney general.

29 (b) Whenever property which is subject to the provisions of this chapter is leased by the  
30 state, the lessee shall report on a semi-annual basis the amount of income revenue generated by  
31 the leased property. The report shall be made to the state properties commission and copies shall  
32 be provided to both the house and senate fiscal staffs and the governor. These requirements shall  
33 be contained in the lease between the lessor and the lessee with approval of the state properties  
34 committee.

1 SECTION 5. Sections 39-1-1 and 39-1-27.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled  
2 "Public Utilities Commission" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-1-1. Declaration of policy -- Purposes.** -- (a) The general assembly finds and  
4 therefore declares that:

5 (1) The businesses of distributing electrical energy, producing and transporting  
6 manufactured and natural gas, operating water works and furnishing supplies of water for  
7 domestic, industrial, and commercial use, offering to the public transportation of persons and  
8 property, furnishing and servicing telephonic and wireless audio and visual communication  
9 systems, and operation of community antenna television systems are affected with a public  
10 interest;

11 (2) Supervision and reasonable regulation by the state of the manner in which such  
12 businesses construct their systems and carry on their operations within the state are necessary to  
13 protect and promote the convenience, health, comfort, safety, accommodation, and welfare of the  
14 people, and are a proper exercise of the police power of the state;

15 (3) Preservation of the state's resources, commerce, and industry requires the assurance  
16 of adequate public transportation and communication facilities, water supplies, and an abundance  
17 of energy, all supplied to the people with reliability, at economical cost, and with due regard for  
18 the preservation and enhancement of the environment, the conservation of natural resources,  
19 including scenic, historic, and recreational assets, and the strengthening of long-range, land-use  
20 planning.

21 (b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to provide fair regulation of public  
22 utilities and carriers in the interest of the public, to promote availability of adequate, efficient and  
23 economical energy, communication, and transportation services and water supplies to the  
24 inhabitants of the state, to provide just and reasonable rates and charges for such services and  
25 supplies, without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive  
26 competitive practices, and to co-operate with other states and agencies of the federal government  
27 in promoting and coordinating efforts to achieve realization of this policy.

28 (c) To this end, there is hereby vested in the public utilities commission and the division  
29 of public utilities and carriers the exclusive power and authority to supervise, regulate, and make  
30 orders governing the conduct of companies offering to the public in intrastate commerce energy,  
31 communication, and transportation services and water supplies for the purpose of increasing and  
32 maintaining the efficiency of the companies, according desirable safeguards and convenience to  
33 their employees and to the public, and protecting them and the public against improper and  
34 unreasonable rates, tolls and charges by providing full, fair, and adequate administrative

1 procedures and remedies, and by securing a judicial review to any party aggrieved by such an  
2 administrative proceeding or ruling.

3 (d) The legislature also finds and declares, as of 1996, the following:

4 (1) That lower retail electricity rates would promote the state's economy and the health  
5 and general welfare of the citizens of Rhode Island;

6 (2) That current research and experience indicates that greater competition in the  
7 electricity industry would result in a decrease in electricity rates over time;

8 (3) That greater competition in the electricity industry would stimulate economic growth;

9 (4) That it is in the public interest to promote competition in the electricity industry and  
10 to establish performance based ratemaking for regulated utilities;

11 (5) That in connection with the transition to a more competitive electric utility industry,  
12 public utilities should have a reasonable opportunity to recover transitional costs associated with  
13 commitments prudently incurred in the past pursuant to their legal obligations to provide reliable  
14 electric service at reasonable costs;

15 (6) That it shall be the policy of the state to encourage, through all feasible means and  
16 measures, states where fossil-fueled electric generating units producing air emissions affecting  
17 Rhode Island air quality are located to reduce such emissions over time to levels that enable cost  
18 effective attainment of environmental standards within Rhode Island;

19 (7) That in a restructured electrical industry the same protections currently afforded to  
20 low income customers shall continue.

21 (e) The legislature further finds and declares as of 2006:

22 (1) That prices of energy, including especially fossil-fuels and electricity, are rising faster  
23 than the cost of living and are subject to sharp fluctuations, which conditions create hardships for  
24 many households, institutions, organizations, and businesses in the state;

25 (2) That while utility restructuring has brought some benefits, notably in transmission and  
26 distribution costs and more efficient use of generating capacities, it has not resulted in  
27 competitive markets for residential and small commercial industrial customers, lower overall  
28 prices, or greater diversification of energy resources used for electrical generation;

29 (3) That the state's economy and the health and general welfare of the people of Rhode  
30 Island benefit when energy supplies are reliable and least-cost; and

31 (4) That it is a necessary move beyond basic utility restructuring in order to secure for  
32 Rhode Island, to the maximum extent reasonably feasible, the benefits of reasonable and stable  
33 rates, least-cost procurement, and system reliability that includes energy resource diversification,  
34 distributed generation, and load management.

1           **39-1-27.3. Electric distribution companies required to provide retail access,**  
2 **standard offer and last resort service.** -- (a) To promote economic development and the  
3 creation and preservation of employment opportunities within the state, each electric distribution  
4 company shall offer retail access from nonregulated power producers to all customers.

5           (b) Through year 2009, and effective July 1, 2007, through year 2020, each electric  
6 distribution company shall arrange for a standard power supply offer ("standard offer") to  
7 customers that have not elected to enter into power supply arrangements with other nonregulated  
8 power suppliers. The rates that are charged by the electric distribution company to customers for  
9 standard offer service shall be approved by the commission and shall be designed to recover the  
10 electric distribution company's costs and no more than the electric distribution company's costs;  
11 provided, that the commission may establish and/or implement a rate that averages the costs over  
12 periods of time. The electric distribution company shall not be entitled to recover any profit  
13 margin on the sale of standard offer power, except with approval of the commission as may be  
14 necessary to implement fairly and effectively, system reliability and least-cost procurement. The  
15 electric distribution company will be entitled to recover its costs incurred from providing the  
16 standard offer arising out of: (1) wholesale standard offer supply agreements with power  
17 suppliers in effect prior to January 1, 2002; (2) power supply arrangements that are approved by  
18 the commission after January 1, 2002; (3) power supply arrangements made pursuant to sections  
19 39-1-27.3.1 and 39-1-27.8; and (4) any other power supply related arrangements prudently made  
20 after January 1, 2002 to provide standard offer supply or to mitigate standard offer supply costs,  
21 including costs for system reliability, procurement and least-cost procurement, as provided for in  
22 section 39-1-27.7 ; ~~provided, however, to the extent there are any cost recovery matters relating to~~  
23 ~~the provision of standard offer service that have been deferred and are pending before the~~  
24 ~~commission as of the effective date of this section, such cost recovery matters shall be governed~~  
25 ~~by the statutory provisions in effect on the date of the action of the commission to defer its~~  
26 ~~decision on the cost recovery matter.~~ Subject to commission approval, the electric distribution  
27 company may enter into financial contracts designed to hedge fuel-related or other variable costs  
28 associated with power supply arrangements and the costs of any such financial contracts shall be  
29 recoverable in standard offer rates. The electric distribution company's standard offer revenues  
30 and its standard offer costs shall be accounted for and reconciled with interest at least annually.  
31 Except as otherwise may be directed by the commission in order to accomplish purposes  
32 established by law, any ~~Any~~ over recoveries shall be refunded to customers in a manner directed  
33 by the commission, and any under recoveries shall be recovered by the electric distribution  
34 company through a uniform adjustment factor approved by the commission. The commission

1 shall have the discretion to apply such adjustment factor in any given instance to all customers or  
2 to such specific class of customers that the commission deems equitable under the circumstances  
3 provided that the distribution company recovers any under recovery in its entirety. Once a  
4 customer has elected to enter into a power supply arrangement with a nonregulated power  
5 producer, the electric distribution company shall not be required to arrange for the standard offer  
6 to such customer except as provided in section 39-1-27.3.1. No customer who initially elects the  
7 standard offer and then chooses an alternative supplier shall be required to pay any withdrawal  
8 fee or penalty to the provider of the standard offer unless such a penalty or withdrawal fee was  
9 agreed to as part of a contract; however, no residential customer shall be required to pay a penalty  
10 or withdrawal fee for choosing an alternative supplier. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
11 construed to restrict the right of any nonregulated power producer to offer to sell power to  
12 customers at a price comparable to that of the standard offer specified pursuant to this subsection.  
13 The electric distribution company may not terminate an existing standard offer wholesale supply  
14 agreement without the written consent of the division.

15 (c) In recognition that electricity is an essential service, each electric distribution  
16 company shall arrange for a last resort power supply for customers who have left the standard  
17 offer for any reason and are not otherwise receiving electric service from nonregulated power  
18 producers. The electric distribution company shall procure last resort service supply from  
19 wholesale power suppliers. Prior to acquiring last resort supply, the electric distribution company  
20 will file with the commission a supply acquisition plan or plans that include the acquisition  
21 procedure, the pricing options being sought, and a proposed term of service for which last resort  
22 service will be acquired. The term of service may be short or long term and acquisitions may  
23 occur from time to time and for more than one supplier for segments of last resort service load  
24 over different terms, if appropriate. All the components of the acquisition plans, however, shall be  
25 subject to commission review and approval. Once an acquisition plan is approved by the  
26 commission, the electric distribution company shall be authorized to acquire last resort service  
27 supply consistent with the approved acquisition plan and recover its costs incurred from  
28 providing last resort service pursuant to the approved acquisition plan. The commission may  
29 periodically review the acquisition plan to determine whether it should be prospectively modified  
30 due to changed market conditions. The commission shall have the authority and discretion to  
31 approve special tariff conditions and rates proposed by the electric distribution company that the  
32 commission finds are in the public interest, including without limitation: (1) short and long term  
33 optional service at different rates; (2) term commitments or notice provisions before individual  
34 customers leave last resort service; (3) last resort service rates for residential or any other special



1 class of customers that are different than the rates for other last resort customers; and/or (4) last  
2 resort service rates that are designed to encourage any class of customers to return to the market.  
3 The electric distribution company's last resort service revenues and its last resort service costs  
4 shall be accounted for and reconciled with interest at least annually. Any over recoveries shall be  
5 refunded and any under recoveries shall be recovered by the electric distribution company  
6 through a uniform adjustment factor approved by the commission. The commission shall have the  
7 discretion to apply such adjustment factor in any given instance to all customers or to such  
8 specific class of customers that the commission deems equitable under the circumstances  
9 provided that the distribution company recovers any under recovery in its entirety. Nothing in this  
10 section shall be construed to prohibit an electric distribution company from terminating service  
11 provided hereunder in accordance with commission rules and regulations in the event of  
12 nonpayment of this service. The commission may promulgate regulations to implement this  
13 section including the terms and conditions upon which last resort service is offered and provided  
14 to customers.

15 (d) If a customer being served by a nonregulated power producer pays any taxes assessed  
16 for electric service to the electric distribution company and the electric distribution company  
17 forwards such tax payment for the power portion of the bill to a nonregulated power producer for  
18 payment by the nonregulated power producer to the state, neither the customer nor the electric  
19 distribution company shall be liable for such taxes forwarded if the nonregulated power producer  
20 fails to remit such taxes to the state for any reason.

21 SECTION 6 Chapter 39-1 of the General Laws entitled "Public Utilities Commission" is  
22 hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

23 **39-1-27.7. System reliability and least-cost procurement.** – Least-cost procurement  
24 shall comprise system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as provided  
25 for in this section and supply procurement as provided for in section 39-1-27.8, as complementary  
26 but distinct activities that have as common purpose meeting electrical energy needs in Rhode  
27 Island, in a manner that is optimally cost-effective, reliable, prudent and environmentally  
28 responsible.

29 (a) The commission shall establish not later than June 1, 2008, standards for system  
30 reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement, which shall include standards and  
31 guidelines for:

32 (1) System reliability procurement, including but not limited to:

33 (i) Procurement of energy supply from diverse sources, including, but not limited to,  
34 renewable energy resources as defined in chapter 39-26;

1           (ii) Distributed generation, including, but not limited to, renewable energy resources and  
2 thermally leading combined heat and power systems, which is reliable and is cost-effective, with  
3 measurable, net system benefits;

4           (iii) Demand response, including, but not limited to, distributed generation, back-up  
5 generation and on-demand usage reduction, which shall be designed to facilitate electric customer  
6 participation in regional demand response programs, including those administered by the  
7 independent service operator of New England ("ISO-NE") and/or are designed to provide local  
8 system reliability benefits through load control or using on-site generating capability;

9           (iv) To effectuate the purposes of this division, the commission may establish standards  
10 and/or rates (A) for qualifying distributed generation, demand response, and renewable energy  
11 resources, (B) for net-metering, (C) for back-up power and/or standby rates that reasonably  
12 facilitate the development of distributed generation, and (D) for such other matters as the  
13 commission may find necessary or appropriate.

14           (2) Least-cost procurement, which shall include procurement of energy efficiency and  
15 energy conservation measures that are prudent and reliable and when such measures are lower  
16 cost than acquisition of additional supply, including supply for periods of high demand.

17           (b) The standards and guidelines provided for by subsection (a) shall be subject to  
18 periodic review and as appropriate amendment by the commission, which review will conduct not  
19 less frequently than every three (3) years after the adoption of the standards and guidelines.

20           (c) To implement the provisions of this section:

21           (1) The commissioner of the office of energy resources and the energy efficiency and  
22 resources management council, either or jointly or separately, shall provide the commission  
23 findings and recommendations with regard to system reliability and energy efficiency and  
24 conservation procurement on or before March 1, 2008, and triennially on or before March 1,  
25 thereafter through March 1, 2017.

26           (2) The commission shall issue standards not later than June 1, 2008, with regard to plans  
27 for system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement, which standards may  
28 be amended or revised by the commission as necessary and/or appropriate.

29           (3) The energy efficiency and resources management council shall prepare by July 15,  
30 2009, a reliability and efficiency procurement opportunity report which shall identify  
31 opportunities to procure efficiency, distributed generation, demand response and renewables,  
32 which report shall be submitted to the electrical distribution company, the commission, the office  
33 of energy resources and the joint committee on energy.

34           (4) Each electrical distribution company shall submit to the commission on or before

1 September 1, 2008, and triennially on or before September 1, thereafter through September 1,  
2 2017, a plan for system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement. In  
3 developing the plan, the distribution company may seek the advice of the commissioner and the  
4 council. The plan shall include measurable goals and target percentages for each energy resource,  
5 pursuant to standards established by the commission, including efficiency, distributed generation,  
6 demand response, combined heat and power, and renewables.

7 (5) The commission shall issue an order with regard to the plan from the electrical  
8 distribution company not greater than sixty (60) days after it is filed with the commission.

9 (6) Each electrical distribution company shall provide a status report, which shall be  
10 public, on the implementation of least cost procurement on or before December 15, 2008, and on  
11 or before February 1, 2009, to the commission, the division, the commissioner of the office of  
12 energy resources and the energy efficiency and resources management council which may  
13 provide the distribution company recommendations with regard to effective implementation of  
14 least cost procurement. The report shall include the targets for each energy resource included in  
15 the order approving the plan and the achieved percentage for energy resource, including the  
16 achieved percentages for efficiency, distributed generation, demand response, combined heat and  
17 power, and renewables.

18 (d) If the commission shall determine that the implementation of system reliability and  
19 energy efficiency and conservation procurement has caused or is likely to cause under or over-  
20 recovery of overhead and fixed costs of the company implementing said procurement, the  
21 commission may establish a mandatory rate adjustment clause for the company so affected in  
22 order to provide for full recovery of reasonable and prudent overhead and fixed costs.

23 (e) The commission shall conduct a contested case proceeding to establish a performance  
24 based incentive plan which allows for additional compensation for each electric distribution  
25 company and each company providing gas to end-users and/or retail customers based on the  
26 level of its success in mitigating the cost and variability of electric and gas services through  
27 procurement portfolios.

28 **39-1-27.8. Supply procurement portfolio.** -- Each electric distribution company shall  
29 submit a proposed supply procurement plan or plans to the commission not later than March 1,  
30 2009, and each March 1, thereafter through March 1, 2018. The supply procurement plan or plans  
31 shall be consistent with the purposes of least-cost procurement and shall, as appropriate, take into  
32 account plans and orders with regard to system reliability and energy efficiency and conservation  
33 procurement. The supply procurement plan or plans will include the acquisition procedure, the  
34 pricing options being sought, and a proposed term of service for which standard offer service will

1 be acquired. The term of service may be of various, staggered term lengths and acquisitions may  
2 occur from time to time and for more than one supplier for segments of standard offer load over  
3 different terms, if appropriate. There also may be separate procurement plans for residential and  
4 non-residential classes or separate plans among non-residential classes. All the components of the  
5 procurement plans, shall be subject to commission review and approval. Once a procurement plan  
6 is approved by the commission, the electric distribution company shall be authorized to acquire  
7 standard offer service supply consistent with the approved procurement plan and recover its costs  
8 incurred from providing standard offer service pursuant to the approved procurement plan. The  
9 commission may periodically review the procurement plan to determine whether it should be  
10 prospectively modified due to changed market conditions. The commission shall have the  
11 authority and discretion to establish eligibility criteria by rate class, and approve special tariff  
12 conditions and rates proposed by the electric distribution company that the commission finds are  
13 in the public interest, including without limitation: (1) short and long term optional service at  
14 different rates; (2) term commitments or notice provisions before individual customers leave  
15 standard offer service; (3) standard offer service rates for residential or any other special class of  
16 customers that are different than the rates for other standard offer customers; (4) time of use  
17 commodity pricing for specified classes of customers, except residential customers; provided,  
18 however, that the commission may establish pilot programs for time of use commodity pricing for  
19 residential customers; and/or (5) standard offer service rates that are designed to encourage any  
20 class of customers to purchase supply directly from the market.

21 **39-1-27.9. Office of energy resources participation.** -- In any commission inquiry into,  
22 or examination of matters that relate to or could potentially impact any programs, functions or  
23 duties of the office of energy resources and/or the energy efficiency and resources management  
24 council, including, but not limited to, those programs, functions and duties pursuant to this  
25 chapter and chapters 42-140, 42-140.1, 42-140.2, and 42-141, the office of energy resources and  
26 the energy resources council shall be deemed, upon the formal request of the office or the council  
27 as appropriate, to be an interested party for all purposes, and as such, shall receive all notices and  
28 may file complaints, institute proceedings, participate as a party in administrative hearings.

29 **39-1-27.10. Electric and gas distribution companies required to file affordable**  
30 **energy plans.** – (a) On or before January 2, 2007, each gas and electric distribution company  
31 shall submit to the commission a plan for affordable energy for low income households, including  
32 very low income households as defined in section 42-141-3. The plan shall provide for the  
33 implementation of the affordable energy fund and shall include provisions for discounted  
34 distribution rates and customer charges, payments on arrearages and unpaid balances by low

1 income households, and energy efficiency and weatherization, to the extent that funding is  
2 allocated by the commissioner pursuant to subsection 42-141-5(d).

3 (b) On or before April 30, 2007, the commission shall review the plan and issue an order  
4 with regard to the plan not later than May 31, 2007. The order shall be effective not later than  
5 November 1, 2007. The commission shall cause a review, and as appropriate an amendment, the  
6 plan at least every three (3) years between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2016.

7 (c) On or before November 1, 2007, each gas and electric distribution company shall  
8 implement an affordable energy plan in accordance with the order of the commission.

9 SECTION 7. Sections 39-2-1, 39-2-1.2, 39-2-1.4 and 39-2-5 of the General Laws in  
10 Chapter 39-2 entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers" are hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **39-2-1. Reasonable and adequate services -- Reasonable and just charges. --** (a)

12 Every public utility is required to furnish safe, reasonable, and adequate services and facilities.  
13 The rate, toll, or charge, or any joint rate made, exacted, demanded, or collected by any public  
14 utility for the conveyance or transportation of any persons or property, including sewage, between  
15 points within the state, or for any heat, light, water, or power produced, transmitted, distributed,  
16 delivered, or furnished, or for any telephone or telegraph message conveyed or for any service  
17 rendered or to be rendered in connection therewith, shall be reasonable and just, and every unjust  
18 or unreasonable charge for the service is prohibited and declared unlawful, and no public utility  
19 providing heat, light, water, or power produced, transmitted, distributed, delivered, or furnished  
20 shall terminate the service or deprive any home or building, or whatsoever, of service if the  
21 reason therefor is nonpayment of the service without first notifying the user of the service, or the  
22 owner or owners of the building as recorded with the utility of the impending service termination  
23 by written notice at least ten (10) days prior to the effective date of the proposed termination of  
24 service.

25 (b) Any existing rules and regulations dealing with the termination of utility service and  
26 establishing reasonable methods of debt collection promulgated by the commission pursuant to  
27 this chapter and the provisions of section 39-1.1-3, including but not limited to, any rules and  
28 regulations dealing with deposit and deferred payment arrangements, winter moratorium and  
29 medical emergency protections, and customer dispute resolution procedures, shall be applicable  
30 to any public utility which distributes electricity.

31 (c) The commission shall promulgate such further rules and regulations as are necessary  
32 to protect consumers following the introduction of competition in the electric industry and which  
33 are consistent with this chapter and the provisions of section 39-1.1-3. In promulgating such rules  
34 and regulations, the commission shall confer with the Retail Electric Licensing Commission and

1 shall give reasonable consideration to any and all recommendations of the Retail Electric  
2 Licensing Commission.

3 (d) (Effective until April 15, 2006.) The commission shall promulgate and administer  
4 such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the purpose of this subsection and to  
5 provide for restoration of electric and/or gas service to Protected Status Customers who are  
6 terminated from utility service prior to August 15, 2005.

7 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of part V section 4(E)(1)(B) and (C) of the Public  
8 Utilities Commission Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric,  
9 Gas, and Water Utility Service, a protected status customer who is terminated from utility service  
10 prior to August 15, 2005, shall be eligible to have electric and/or gas utility service restored  
11 providing the following conditions are met: (i) the customer pays twenty percent (20%) of the  
12 customer's unpaid balance; (ii) the customer agrees to pay one twenty-fourth (1/24) of the  
13 customer's remaining balance per month for twenty-four (24) months, (iii) the customer agrees to  
14 remain current with payments for current usage; and (iv) the customer has shown, to the  
15 satisfaction of the division, that the customer is reasonably capable of meeting the payment  
16 schedule provided for by provisions (i)-(iii) of this subsection 39-2-1(d)(1), and that the customer  
17 shall agree to waive the right to a hearing for termination of service; provided that this waiver  
18 provision shall apply exclusively to the provisions of this subsection and shall have no  
19 preferential value for other proceedings before the commission or the division. Once service is  
20 restored under the provisions of this subsection, such service may be terminated if payment is not  
21 made within thirty (30) days after the billing date; provided, however, that termination of service  
22 shall not take place during the moratorium on shut-offs.

23 (2) A customer terminated from service under the provisions of subsection 39-2-1(d)(1)  
24 shall be eligible for restoration of service in accordance with the applicable provisions of part V  
25 section 4(E)(1)(C), or its successor provision, of the Public Utilities Commission Rules and  
26 Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas, and Water Service.

27 ~~(3) The provisions of subsection 39-2-1(d)(1) shall be available if the initial payment for~~  
28 ~~restoration of service is made between April 15, 2005, and August 15, 2005, inclusive.~~

29 (e) On or before May 1, 2007, the commission shall administer such rules and regulations  
30 as may be necessary to implement the purpose of this section and to provide for restoration of  
31 electric and/or gas service to very low income households as defined by section 42-141-2.

32 (1) Effective July 1, 2007, notwithstanding the provisions of part V sections 4(E)(1)(B)  
33 and (C) of the public utilities commission rules and regulations governing the termination of  
34 residential electric, gas, and water utility service, a very low income customer who is terminated

1 from gas and/or electric service shall be eligible one time to have electric and/or gas utility  
2 service restored providing the following conditions are met:

3 (i) the customer pays twenty-five percent (25%) of the customer's unpaid balance;

4 (ii) the customer agrees to pay one thirty-sixth (1/36th) of one half (1/2) of the customer's  
5 remaining balance per month for thirty-six (36) months;

6 (iii) the customer agrees to remain current with payments for current usage; and

7 (iv) the customer has shown, to the satisfaction of the division, that the customer is  
8 reasonably capable of meeting the payment schedule provided for by the provisions of  
9 subdivision 39-2-1(e)(1)(i) and (ii) in this section. The restoration of service provided for by this  
10 subsection shall be a one-time right; failure to comply with the payment provisions set forth in  
11 this subsection shall be grounds for the customer to be dropped from the repayment program  
12 established by this subsection, and the balance due on the unpaid balance shall be due in full and  
13 shall be payable in accordance with the rules of the commission governing the termination of  
14 residential electric, gas, and water utility service. A customer who completes the schedule of  
15 payments pursuant to this subsection, shall have the balance of any arrearage forgiven, and the  
16 customer's obligation to the gas and/or electric company for such balance shall be deemed to be  
17 fully satisfied. The amount of the arrearage so forgiven shall be treated as bad debt for purposes  
18 of cost recovery by the gas or the electric company.

19 (2) A customer terminated from service under the provisions of subdivision 39-2-1(e)(1)  
20 shall be eligible for restoration of service in accordance with the applicable provisions of part V  
21 section 4(E)(1)(C), or its successor provision, of the public utilities commission rules and  
22 regulations governing the termination of residential electric, gas, and water service.

23 **39-2-1.2. Utility base rate -- Advertising, demand side management and renewables.**

24 -- (a) In addition to costs prohibited in section 39-1-27.4(b), no public utility distributing or  
25 providing heat, electricity, or water to or for the public shall include as part of its base rate any  
26 expenses for advertising, either direct or indirect, which promotes the use of its product or  
27 service, or is designed to promote the public image of the industry. No public utility may furnish  
28 support of any kind, direct, or indirect, to any subsidiary, group, association, or individual for  
29 advertising and include the expense as part of its base rate. Nothing contained in this section shall  
30 be deemed as prohibiting the inclusion in the base rate of expenses incurred for advertising,  
31 informational or educational in nature, which is designed to promote public safety conservation of  
32 the public utility's product or service. The public utilities commission shall promulgate such rules  
33 and regulations as are necessary to require public disclosure of all advertising expenses of any  
34 kind, direct or indirect, and to otherwise effectuate the provisions of this section.

1 (b) Effective as of January 1, 2003, and for a period of ten (10) years thereafter, each  
2 electric distribution company shall include charges of 2.0 mills per kilowatt-hour delivered to  
3 fund demand side management programs and 0.3 mills per kilowatt-hour delivered to fund  
4 renewable energy programs. Existing charges for these purposes and their method of  
5 administration shall continue through December 31, 2002. Thereafter, the electric distribution  
6 company shall establish and after July 1, 2007, maintain two (2) separate accounts, one for  
7 demand side management programs, which shall be administered and implemented by the  
8 distribution company, subject to the regulatory reviewing authority of the commission, and one  
9 for renewable energy programs, which shall be administered by the ~~state energy office.~~ office of  
10 energy resources through June 30, 2007, and effective July 1, 2007, shall be held and disbursed  
11 by the distribution company as directed by the commissioner of the office of energy resources,  
12 with the approval, if appropriate, of the trustees of the renewable energy development fund, for  
13 the purposes of developing, promoting and supporting renewable energy programs.

14 During the ten (10) year period the commission may, in its discretion, after notice and  
15 public hearing, increase the sums for demand side management and renewable resources;  
16 thereafter, the commission shall, after notice and public hearing, determine the appropriate charge  
17 for these programs. The ~~energy~~ office of energy resources and/or ~~and~~ the administrator of the  
18 renewable energy programs shall seek to secure for the state an equitable and reasonable portion  
19 of renewable energy credits or certificates created by projects funded through those programs,  
20 and shall develop and execute by July 1, 2007, a plan to make the program self-sustaining as of  
21 January 1, 2013. As used in this section, "renewable energy resources" shall mean: (1) power  
22 generation technologies as defined in section 39-26-5, "eligible renewable energy resources";  
23 including off-grid and on-grid generating technologies located in Rhode Island as a priority; (2)  
24 research and development activities in Rhode Island pertaining to eligible renewable energy  
25 resources and to other renewable energy technologies for electrical generation; or (3) projects and  
26 activities directly related to implementing eligible renewable energy resources projects in Rhode  
27 Island. Technologies for converting solar energy for space heating or generating domestic hot  
28 water may also be funded through the renewable energy programs, so long as these technologies  
29 are installed on housing projects that have been certified by the executive director of the Rhode  
30 Island housing and mortgage finance corporation as serving low-income Rhode Island residents.  
31 Fuel cells may be considered an energy efficiency technology to be included in demand sided  
32 management programs. Special rates for low income customers in effect as of August 7, 1996  
33 shall be continued, and the costs of all of these discounts shall be included in the distribution rates  
34 charged to all other customers. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an electric



1 distribution company from offering any special rates or programs for low income customers  
2 which are not in effect as of August 7, 1996, subject to the approval by the commission.

3 (c) The ~~director of the state energy office~~ commissioner of the office of energy resources  
4 is authorized and ~~shall~~ may enter into a contract with a contractor for the cost effective  
5 administration of the renewable energy programs funded by this section. The director shall  
6 initiate the competitive bid process by the issuance and advertisement of specifications and  
7 request for proposals, on or before September 1, 2002. The contract resulting from the  
8 competitive bid process shall be awarded to become effective for a three (3) year period  
9 commencing no later than January 1, 2003. A competitive bid and contract award for  
10 administration of the renewable energy programs ~~shall~~ may occur every three (3) years thereafter,  
11 and shall include as a condition that after July 1, 2007 the account for the renewable energy  
12 programs shall be maintained by the distribution company as provided for in subdivision (b)  
13 above and, with the approval of the commissioner of the office of energy resources and the  
14 trustees of the renewable energy fund, may be administered by the economic development  
15 corporation.

16 (d) Effective January 1, 2007, and for a period of seven (7) years thereafter, each gas  
17 distribution company shall include, with the approval of the commission, a charge of up to fifteen  
18 cents (\$0.15) per deca therm delivered to demand side management programs, including, but not  
19 limited to, programs for cost-effective energy efficiency, energy conservation, combined heat and  
20 power systems, and weatherization services for low income households.

21 (e) The gas company shall establish a separate account for demand side management  
22 programs, which shall be administered and implemented by the distribution company, subject to  
23 the regulatory reviewing authority of the commission. The commission may establish  
24 administrative mechanisms and procedures that are similar to those for electric demand side  
25 management programs administered under the jurisdiction of the commissions and that are  
26 designed to achieve cost-effectiveness and high life-time savings of efficiency measures  
27 supported by the program.

28 (f) The commission may, if reasonable and feasible, except from this demand side  
29 management change:

30 (i) gas used for distribution generation; and

31 (ii) gas used for the manufacturing processes, where the customer has established a self-  
32 directed program to invest in and achieve best effective energy efficiency in accordance with a  
33 plan approved by the commission and subject to periodic review and approval by the  
34 commission, which plan shall require annual reporting of the amount invested and the return on

1 investments in terms of gas savings.

2 (g) The commission may provide for the coordinated and/or integrated administration of  
3 electric and gas demand side management programs in order to enhance the effectiveness of the  
4 programs. Such coordinated and/or integrated administration may after March 1, 2009, upon the  
5 recommendation of the office of energy resources, be through one or more third-party entities  
6 designated by the commission pursuant to a competitive selection process.

7 (h) Effective January 1, 2007, the commission shall allocate from demand-side  
8 management gas and electric funds authorized pursuant to this section 39-2-1.2, an amount not to  
9 exceed two percent (2%) of such funds on an annual basis for the retention of expert consultants,  
10 and reasonable administrations costs of the energy efficiency and resources management council  
11 associated with planning, management, and evaluation of energy efficiency programs, renewable  
12 energy programs and least-cost procurement, and with regulatory proceedings, contested cases,  
13 and other actions pertaining to the purposes, powers and duties of the council, which allocation  
14 may by mutual agreement, be used in coordination with the office of energy resources to support  
15 such activities.

16 **39-2-1.4. Reasonable backup or supplemental rates.** -- (a) Electricity produced by  
17 cogeneration and small power production can be of benefit to the public as part of the total energy  
18 supply of the entire electric grid of the state or consumed by a cogenerator or small power  
19 producer. Subject to compliance with applicable rules governing such service, public utilities  
20 shall provide transmission or distribution service to enable a retail customer to transmit electrical  
21 power generated by the customer at one location to the customer's facilities at another location, if  
22 the commission finds that the provision of this service, and the charges, terms, and other  
23 conditions associated with the provision of this service, are not likely to result in higher cost  
24 electric service to the utility's general body of retail and wholesale customers or adversely affect  
25 the adequacy or reliability of electric service to all customers.

26 (b) Each electric distribution company shall provide backup and supplemental service to  
27 any customer who is self-generating electricity and meets reasonable interconnection  
28 requirements designed to protect the distribution and transmission system. The commission shall  
29 ensure that backup and supplemental rates made, exacted, demanded or collected by any public  
30 utility from a customer who is self-generating shall be just and reasonable and may not be unduly  
31 discriminatory. Any backup and supplemental rate tariffs in effect as of May 2002 may remain in  
32 effect as designed through December 31, 2004. Commencing January 1, 2005, the backup and  
33 supplemental rates shall be cost based but may be discounted as provided for in subsection (c) of  
34 this section; provided, however, that the John O. Pastore Center power plant shall be exempt from

1 said backup or supplemental rates.

2 (c) Notwithstanding the rate design criteria set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the  
3 commission may permit or require discounted backup distribution service rates in order to  
4 encourage economically efficient cogeneration or small power production projects if it finds these  
5 discounts to be in the public interest [and/or contribute to system reliability procurement or least-](#)  
6 [cost procurement](#); provided, however, that any revenue not recovered by the electric distribution  
7 company as a result of these discounted distribution rates shall be accounted for and recovered in  
8 the rates assessed on all customers. The commission shall, in determining the public interest in  
9 distributed generating facilities, consider reduced environmental impacts, increased energy  
10 efficiency, reduced transmission losses and congestion, effects on electric system reliability and  
11 other factors the commission may deem relevant.

12 **39-2-5. Exceptions to anti-discrimination provisions.** -- The provisions of sections 39-  
13 2-2 -- 39-2-4 shall be subject to the following exceptions:

14 (1) A public utility may issue or give free transportation or service to its employees and  
15 their families, its officers, agents, surgeons, physicians, and attorneys at law, and to the officers,  
16 agents, and employees, and their families of any other public utility.

17 (2) With the approval of the division any public utility may give free transportation or  
18 service, upon such conditions as the public utility may impose, or grant special rates therefor to  
19 the state, to any town, or city, or to any water or fire district, and to the officers thereof, for public  
20 purposes, and also to any special class or classes of persons, not otherwise referred to in this  
21 section, in cases where the same shall seem to the division just and reasonable, or required in the  
22 interests of the public, and not unjustly discriminatory.

23 (3) With the approval of the division any public utility operating a railroad or street  
24 railway may furnish to the publishers of newspapers and magazines, and to their employees,  
25 passenger transportation in return for advertising in the newspapers or magazines at full rates.

26 (4) With the approval of the division any public utility may exchange its service for the  
27 service of any other public utility furnishing a different class of service.

28 (5) Nothing in this section nor any other provision of the law shall be construed to  
29 prohibit the giving by any public utility, free or reduced rate service to an elderly person as  
30 defined by the division.

31 (6) Any motor carrier of persons, as defined in chapter 13 of this title, may elect to file a  
32 tariff providing for a rate reduction of twenty-five percent (25%) below its one-way fare tariff  
33 applying to any person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and any person assisting and  
34 traveling with a blind passenger who is not required to pay any fare pursuant to the provisions of

1 section 39-2-13 for bus rides between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) a.m. and three o'clock  
2 (3:00) p.m. of each day. In such event the reduced fare shall be paid in part by the passenger and  
3 in part by the state. That part of the reduced fare payable by the state shall be one half (1/2) of the  
4 reduced fare adjusted upward to end in the nearest zero (0) or five cents (.05), and that part  
5 payable by the passenger shall be the balance of the reduced fare. Payments by the state under  
6 this section shall be paid monthly under procedures agreed upon by the department of  
7 transportation and the carrier.

8 (7) [Deleted by P.L. 2004, ch. 378, section 4, and by P.L. 2004, ch. 504, section 4.]

9 (8) Any person, firm, or corporation or any officer, agent, servant, or employee thereof  
10 who shall violate the provisions of subsection (7) by fraudulently obtaining a telecommunications  
11 device shall, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) or be  
12 imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year.

13 (9) (i) Nothing in this section nor any other provision of the general laws shall be  
14 construed to prohibit the commission from taking actions to enable the state to participate in a  
15 federal communications commission telephone lifeline program. The commission may set a  
16 subscriber funded monthly residence basic exchange lifeline telephone service credit in an  
17 amount not to exceed the federal subscriber line access charge or the monthly basic service  
18 charge, whichever is less, for those persons who receive supplemental social security income  
19 (SSI), aid to families with dependent children (AFDC), general public assistance (GPA), aid from  
20 the Rhode Island medical assistance program, or food stamps issued pursuant to the Food Stamp  
21 Act of 1964 as amended (public law 88-525 and amendments made thereto, 7 U.S.C. section  
22 2011 et seq.), assistance from the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) as  
23 administered by the department of administration, division of planning, and effective April 1,  
24 1993, assistance from the Rhode Island pharmaceutical assistance program administered by the  
25 department of elderly affairs. The public utilities commission may promulgate regulations to  
26 implement this section. The department of human services and the department of administration,  
27 division of planning shall certify subscriber eligibility for the programs in accordance with public  
28 utilities commission and federal communications commission guidelines.

29 (ii) The department of human services shall report monthly to the governor and to the  
30 house of representatives fiscal advisor the number of persons newly eligible for the lifeline  
31 telephone service credit hereunder solely by virtue of their eligibility to receive food stamp  
32 assistance and the department of administration, division of planning shall, also, report monthly  
33 to the governor and to the house of representatives fiscal advisor the number of persons newly  
34 eligible for the lifeline telephone service credit hereunder solely by virtue of their participation in

1 the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP).

2 (10) Nothing in this section nor any other provision of the general laws shall be  
3 construed to prohibit any public utility with the approval of the commission, from forgiving  
4 arrearages of any person in accordance with the ~~terms of a percentage of income payment plan~~  
5 ~~administered by the governor's office of energy assistance for low income households who are~~  
6 ~~eligible to receive funds under the federal low income home energy assistance program~~  
7 provisions of subsection 39-2-1(e).

8 (11) Nothing in this section or any other provision of the law shall be construed to  
9 prohibit any utility company from cutting, disconnecting, or removing mains, poles, wires,  
10 conduits, or fixtures free of charge to nonprofit housing development corporations prior to  
11 moving a building to be used as affordable housing for at least a ten (10) year period.

12 (12) Nothing in this section nor any other provision of the general laws shall be  
13 construed to prohibit any telecommunications provider with the approval of the commission,  
14 from offering any person, firm or corporation a reduced rate, provided such rate covers all costs.

15 (13) A gas or electric distribution company may provide discounts to low income  
16 customers in accordance with the affordable energy plan provisions of subsection 42-141-5(d).  
17 Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the continuation of any low income discounts approved  
18 by the commission prior to January 1, 2006, and in effect as of that date.

19 SECTION 8. Section 39-26-7 and 39-26-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-26 entitled  
20 "Renewable Energy Standard" are hereby amended to read as follows:

21 **39-26-7. Renewable energy development fund.** -- (a) There is hereby authorized and  
22 created within the economic development corporation a renewable energy development fund for  
23 the purpose of increasing the supply of NE-GIS certificates available for compliance in future  
24 years by obligated entities with renewable energy standard requirements, as established in this  
25 chapter. The fund shall be located at and administered by the Rhode Island Economic  
26 Development Corporation and shall have a board of trustees of five (5) members as follows: the  
27 executive director of the economic development corporation, who shall be chairman, the director  
28 of the department of administration or a designee of the director, the administrator of the division  
29 of public utilities, and two (2) public members appointed by the governor with advice and consent  
30 of the senate, who shall serve terms of three (3) years, provided however that no public members  
31 may serve more than two (2) consecutive (3) three year terms. One of the public members shall  
32 be a representative of an organization that advocates for renewable energy development. Each  
33 member shall hold office for the term appointed and until the member's successor shall have been  
34 duly appointed and qualified, or until the member's earlier death, resignation or removal.

1 Members of the board of trustees of the fund shall receive no compensation for the performance  
2 of their duties, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out those  
3 duties. The board of trustees shall recommend to the economic development corporation:

- 4 (1) Plans and guidelines for the management and use of the fund, and  
5 (2) Its evaluation of proposals and/or actions to obligate, use and/or sell, dispose, trade or  
6 exchange assets held by the fund. The board of trustees shall have the power to adopt, with the  
7 approval of the economic development corporation, such by-laws as may be necessary or  
8 convenient for the conduct of its affairs.

9 (b) The economic development corporation shall enter into agreements with obligated  
10 entities to accept alternative compliance payments, consistent with rules of the commission and  
11 the purposes set forth in this section; and alternative compliance payments received pursuant to  
12 this section shall be trust funds to be held and applied solely for the purposes set forth in this  
13 section.

14 (c) The uses of the fund shall include but not be limited to:

15 (1) Stimulating investment in renewable energy development by entering into  
16 agreements, including multi-year agreements, for renewable energy certificates;

17 (2) Issuing assurances and/or guarantees to support the acquisition of renewable energy  
18 certificates and/or the development of new renewable energy sources for Rhode Island;

19 (3) Establishing escrows, reserves, and/or acquiring insurance for the obligations of the  
20 fund;

21 (4) Paying administrative costs of the fund incurred by the economic development  
22 corporation or the board of trustees, not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the income of the fund,  
23 including but not limited to alternative compliance payments.

24 (d) NE-GIS certificates acquired through the fund may be conveyed to obligated entities  
25 or may be credited against the renewable energy standard for the year of the certificate provided  
26 that the commission assesses the cost of the certificates to the obligated entity, or entities,  
27 benefiting from the credit against the renewable energy standard, which assessment shall be  
28 reduced by previously made alternative compliance payments and shall be paid to the fund.

29 (e) The trustees, in cooperation and concurrence with the commissioner of the office of  
30 energy resources, consistent with rules as may be adopted by the commission, develop an  
31 integrated plan and strategy, by July 1, 2007, for stimulating the development of and financing  
32 eligible renewable energy resources.

33 **39-26-8. Interaction with other policies.** -- (a) Rhode Island has established a system-  
34 benefits charge (SBC), a portion of which is dedicated to supporting renewable energy,

1 administered ~~by the state energy office~~ in accordance with the provisions of subsections 39-2-  
2 1.2(b) and (c); other states have similar policies. The ~~state energy~~ office of energy resources is  
3 hereby directed to collaborate with the ~~commissions and~~ division of public utilities, the trustees of  
4 the renewable energy development fund, the distribution company with other interests and  
5 parties, as appropriate, in maximizing the combined impact and efficiency of the ~~SBC~~ renewable  
6 energy program established by subsections 39-2-1.2(b) and (c) and the renewable energy  
7 standard.

8 (b) It is the intent of this chapter that generation attributes and NE-GIS certificates  
9 applied towards Rhode Island renewable energy standard compliance may not be used towards  
10 compliance with state renewable energy obligations relating to an obligated entity's load in other  
11 states.

12 SECTION 9. Section 42-11-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-11 entitled  
13 "Department of Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 **42-11-10. Statewide planning program.** -- (a) Findings. - The general assembly finds  
15 that the people of this state have a fundamental interest in the orderly development of the state;  
16 the state has a positive interest and demonstrated need for establishment of a comprehensive  
17 strategic state planning process and the preparation, maintenance, and implementation of plans  
18 for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; the continued growth and  
19 development of the state presents problems that cannot be met by the cities and towns  
20 individually and that require effective planning by the state; and state and local plans and  
21 programs must be properly coordinated with the planning requirements and programs of the  
22 federal government.

23 (b) Establishment of statewide planning program. - (1) A statewide planning program is  
24 hereby established to prepare, adopt, and amend strategic plans for the physical, economic, and  
25 social development of the state and to recommend these to the governor, the general assembly,  
26 and all others concerned.

27 (2) All strategic planning, as defined in subsection (c) of this section, undertaken by the  
28 executive branch for those departments and other agencies enumerated in subsection (g) of this  
29 section, shall be conducted by or under the supervision of the statewide planning program. The  
30 statewide planning program shall consist of a state planning council, and the office of strategic  
31 planning and the office of systems planning of the division of planning, which shall be a division  
32 within the department of administration.

33 (c) Strategic planning. - Strategic planning includes the following activities:

34 (1) Establishing or identifying general goals.

1 (2) Refining or detailing these goals and identifying relationships between them.

2 (3) Formulating, testing, and selecting policies and standards that will achieve desired  
3 objectives.

4 (4) Preparing long-range or system plans or comprehensive programs that carry out the  
5 policies and set time schedules, performance measures, and targets.

6 (5) Preparing functional short-range plans or programs that are consistent with  
7 established or desired goals, objectives, and policies, and with long-range or system plans or  
8 comprehensive programs where applicable, and that establish measurable intermediate steps  
9 toward their accomplishment of the goals, objectives, policies, and/or long-range system plans.

10 (6) Monitoring the planning of specific projects and designing of specific programs of  
11 short duration by the operating departments, other agencies of the executive branch, and political  
12 subdivisions of the state to insure that these are consistent with and carry out the intent of  
13 applicable strategic plans.

14 (7) Reviewing the execution of strategic plans and the results obtained and making  
15 revisions necessary to achieve established goals.

16 (d) State guide plan. - Components of strategic plans prepared and adopted in accordance  
17 with this section may be designated as elements of the state guide plan. The state guide plan shall  
18 be comprised of functional elements or plans dealing with land use; physical development and  
19 environmental concerns; economic development; housing production; energy supply, [including](#)  
20 [the development of renewable energy resources in Rhode Island, and energy](#) access, use, and  
21 conservation; human services; and other factors necessary to accomplish the objective of this  
22 section. The state guide plan shall be a means for centralizing, integrating, and monitoring long-  
23 range goals, policies, plans, and implementation activities related thereto. State agencies  
24 concerned with specific subject areas, local governments, and the public shall participate in the  
25 state guide planning process, which shall be closely coordinated with the budgeting process.

26 (e) Membership of state planning council. - The state planning council shall consist of:

27 (1) The director of the department of administration as chairperson;

28 (2) The director, policy office, in the office of the governor, as vice-chairperson;

29 (3) The governor, or his or her designee;

30 (4) The budget officer;

31 (5) The chairperson of the housing resources commission;

32 (6) The chief of statewide planning, as secretary;

33 (7) The president of the league of cities and towns or his or her designee and one official  
34 of local government, who shall be appointed by the governor from a list of not less than three (3)



1 submitted by the Rhode Island league of cities and towns; and

2 (8) The executive director of the league of cities and towns;

3 (9) One representative of a nonprofit community development or housing organization;

4 (10) Four (4) public members, appointed by the governor;

5 (11) Two (2) representatives of a private, nonprofit environmental advocacy  
6 organization, both to be appointed by the governor; and

7 (12) The director of planning and development for the city of Providence.

8 (f) Powers and duties of state planning council. - The state planning council shall have  
9 the following powers and duties:

10 (1) To adopt strategic plans as defined in this section and the long-range state guide plan,  
11 and to modify and amend any of these, following the procedures for notification and public  
12 hearing set forth in section 42-35-3, and to recommend and encourage implementation of these  
13 goals to the general assembly, state and federal agencies, and other public and private bodies;  
14 approval of strategic plans by the governor;

15 (2) To coordinate the planning and development activities of all state agencies, in  
16 accordance with strategic plans prepared and adopted as provided for by this section;

17 (3) To review and comment on the proposed annual work program of the statewide  
18 planning program;

19 (4) To adopt rules and standards and issue orders concerning any matters within its  
20 jurisdiction as established by this section and amendments to it;

21 (5) To establish advisory committees and appoint members thereto representing diverse  
22 interests and viewpoints as required in the state planning process and in the preparation or  
23 implementation of strategic plans. The state planning council shall appoint a permanent  
24 committee comprised of:

25 (i) Public members from different geographic areas of the state representing diverse  
26 interests, and

27 (ii) Officials of state, local and federal government, which shall review all proposed  
28 elements of the state guide plan, or amendment or repeal of any element of the plan, and shall  
29 advise the state planning council thereon before the council acts on any such proposal. This  
30 committee shall also advise the state planning council on any other matter referred to it by the  
31 council; and

32 (6) To establish and appoint members to an executive committee consisting of major  
33 participants of a Rhode Island geographic information system with oversight responsibility for its  
34 activities.

1           (7) To adopt on or before July 1, 2007, and to amend and maintain as an element of the  
2 state guide plan or as an amendment to an existing element of the state guide plan, standards and  
3 guidelines for the location of eligible renewable energy resources and renewable energy facilities  
4 in Rhode Island with due consideration for the location of such resources and facilities in  
5 commercial and industrial areas, agricultural areas, areas occupied by public and private  
6 institutions, and property of the state and its agencies and corporations, provided such areas are of  
7 sufficient size, and in other areas of the state as appropriate.

8           (g) Division of planning. - (1) The division of planning shall be the principal staff  
9 agency of the state planning council for preparing and/or coordinating strategic plans for the  
10 comprehensive management of the state's human, economic, and physical resources. The division  
11 of planning shall recommend to the state planning council specific guidelines, standards, and  
12 programs to be adopted to implement strategic planning and the state guide plan and shall  
13 undertake any other duties established by this section and amendments thereto.

14           (2) The division of planning shall maintain records (which shall consist of files of  
15 complete copies) of all plans, recommendations, rules, and modifications or amendments thereto  
16 adopted or issued by the state planning council under this section. The records shall be open to  
17 the public.

18           (3) The division of planning shall manage and administer the Rhode Island geographic  
19 information system of land-related resources, and shall coordinate these efforts with other state  
20 departments and agencies, including the University of Rhode Island, which shall provide  
21 technical support and assistance in the development and maintenance of the system and its  
22 associated data base.

23           (4) The division of planning shall coordinate and oversee the provision of technical  
24 assistance to political subdivisions of the state in preparing and implementing plans to accomplish  
25 the purposes, goals, objectives, policies, and/or standards of applicable elements of the state guide  
26 plan and shall make available to cities and towns data and guidelines that may be used in  
27 preparing comprehensive plans and elements thereof and in evaluating comprehensive plans and  
28 elements thereby.

29           (h) Transfer determinations. - (1) The director of administration, with the approval of the  
30 governor, shall make the conclusive determination of the number of positions, personnel, physical  
31 space, property, records, and appropriation balances, allocations and other funds of the  
32 department of mental health, retardation, and hospitals, department of health, department of  
33 human services, department of corrections, department of labor and training, department of  
34 environmental management, department of business regulation, department of transportation,

1 department of state library services, Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation,  
2 department of elderly affairs, department for children and their families, historical preservation  
3 commission, water resources board, and the defense civil preparedness/emergency management  
4 agency of the executive department to be transferred to the department of administration in  
5 connection with the functions transferred there into by the provisions of this article.

6 (2) In order to ensure continuity of the strategic planning process of the department  
7 specified heretofore, the actual transfer of functions or any part thereof to the department of  
8 administration may be postponed after July 1, 1985 until such time as, by executive order of the  
9 governor, the transfer herein provided can be put into force and effect but no later than December  
10 31, 1985.

11 SECTION 10. Sections 42-64-3, 42-64-4 and 42-64-13.2 of the General Laws in Chapter  
12 42-64 entitled "Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation" are hereby amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 **42-64-3. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have  
15 the following meanings, unless the context indicates another or different meaning or intent:

16 (1) "Administrative penalty" means a monetary penalty not to exceed the civil penalty  
17 specified in section 42-64-9.2 of this chapter.

18 (2) "Airport facility" means developments consisting of runways, hangars, control  
19 towers, ramps, wharves, bulkheads, buildings, structures, parking areas, improvements, facilities,  
20 or other real or personal property necessary, convenient, or desirable for the landing, taking off,  
21 accommodation, and servicing of aircraft of all types, operated by carriers engaged in the  
22 transportation of passengers or cargo, or for the loading, unloading, interchange, or transfer of the  
23 passengers or their baggage, or the cargo, or otherwise for the accommodation, use or  
24 convenience of the passengers or the carriers or their employees (including related facilities and  
25 accommodations at sites removed from landing fields and other landing areas), or for the landing,  
26 taking off, accommodation, and servicing of aircraft owned or operated by persons other than  
27 carriers. It also means facilities providing access to an airport facility, consisting of rail, rapid  
28 transit, or other forms of mass transportation which furnish a connection between the air terminal  
29 and other points within the state, including appropriate mass transportation terminal facilities at  
30 and within the air terminal itself and suitable offsite facilities for the accommodation of air  
31 passengers, baggage, mail, express, freight, and other users of the connecting facility.

32 (3) "BOCA code" means the BOCA basic building code published by building officials  
33 & code administrators international, inc., as the code may from time to time be promulgated by  
34 the building officials & code administrators international, inc.

1 (4) "Bonds" and "notes" means the bonds, notes, securities, or other obligations or  
2 evidences of indebtedness issued by the corporation pursuant to this chapter, all of which shall be  
3 issued under the name of and known as obligations of the "economic development corporation."

4 (5) "Civic facility" means any real or personal property designed and intended for the  
5 purpose of providing facilities for educational, cultural, community, or other civic purposes.

6 (6) "Compliance schedule" means a schedule of remedial measures including an  
7 enforceable sequence of actions or operations leading to compliance with an effluent limitation or  
8 any other limitation, prohibition or standard.

9 (7) "Corporation," "port authority", or "authority" means the governmental agency and  
10 public instrumentality, formerly known as the "Rhode Island port authority and economic  
11 development corporation" and renamed the "Rhode Island economic development corporation,"  
12 authorized, created, and established pursuant to section 42-64-4, or any subsidiary corporation  
13 thereof which is established pursuant to section 42-64-7.1.

14 (8) "Director" means the executive director of the corporation.

15 (9) "Federal land" means real property within the state, now acquired or hereafter  
16 acquired by the corporation which was formerly owned by the United States government, or any  
17 agency or instrumentality thereof, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any  
18 and all real property now or formerly owned or used by the United States government in the  
19 towns of North Kingstown, Portsmouth, Middletown, and Charlestown and the city of Newport  
20 as military installations or for other purposes related to the national defense. Without limiting the  
21 generality of the foregoing, federal land shall also mean and include certain land in the town of  
22 North Kingstown, or any portion thereof, which has or shall revert to the state pursuant to the  
23 provisions of Public Laws 1939, chapter 696 and is now or hereafter acquired by the corporation  
24 from the state.

25 (10) "Industrial facility" means any real or personal property, the demolition, removal,  
26 relocation, acquisition, expansion, modification, alteration, or improvement of existing buildings,  
27 structures, or facilities, the construction of new buildings, structures, or facilities, the  
28 replacement, acquisition, modification, or renovation of existing machinery and equipment, or the  
29 acquisition of new machinery and equipment, or any combination of the United States, which  
30 shall be suitable for manufacturing, research, production, processing, agriculture, and marine  
31 commerce, or warehousing; or convention centers, trade centers, exhibition centers, or offices  
32 (including offices for the government of the United States or any agency, department, board,  
33 bureau, corporation, or other instrumentality of the United States, or for the state or any state  
34 agency, or for any municipality); or facilities for other industrial, commercial or business

1 purposes of every type and description; and facilities appurtenant or incidental to the foregoing,  
2 including headquarters or office facilities, whether or not at the location of the remainder of the  
3 facility, warehouses, distribution centers, access roads, sidewalks, utilities, railway sidings,  
4 trucking, and similar facilities, parking areas, waterways, dockage, wharfage, and other  
5 improvements necessary or convenient for the construction, development, maintenance, and  
6 operation of those facilities.

7 (11) "Local governing body" means any town or city council, commission, or other  
8 elective governing body now or hereafter vested by state statute, charter, or other law, with  
9 jurisdiction to initiate and adopt local ordinances, whether or not these local ordinances require  
10 the approval of the elected or appointed chief executive officer or other official or body to  
11 become effective.

12 (12) "Local redevelopment corporation" means any agency or corporation created and  
13 existing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 31 of title 45.

14 (13) "Municipality" means any city or town within the state now existing or hereafter  
15 created, or any state agency.

16 (14) "Parent corporation" means, when used in connection with a subsidiary corporation  
17 established pursuant to section 42-64-7.1, the governmental agency and public instrumentality  
18 created and established pursuant to section 42-64-4.

19 (15) "Personal property" means all tangible personal property, new or used, including,  
20 without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all machinery, equipment, transportation  
21 equipment, ships, aircraft, railroad rolling stock, locomotives, pipelines, and all other things and  
22 rights usually included within that term. "Personal property" also means and includes any and all  
23 interests in the property which are less than full title, such as leasehold interests, security  
24 interests, and every other interest or right, legal or equitable.

25 (16) "Pollutant" means any material or effluent which may alter the chemical, physical,  
26 biological or radiological characteristics or integrity of water, including but not limited to,  
27 dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions,  
28 chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded  
29 equipment, cellar dirt, or industrial, municipal, agricultural or other waste petroleum or petroleum  
30 products, including but not limited to oil.

31 (17) "Pollution" means the discharge of any gaseous, liquid, or solid substance or  
32 combination thereof (including noise) into the air, water, or land which affects the physical,  
33 chemical, or biological properties (including temperature) of the air, water, or land in a manner or  
34 to an extent which renders or is likely to render the air, water, or land harmful or inimical to the

1 public health, safety, or welfare, or to animal, bird, or aquatic life, or to the use of the air or water  
2 for domestic, industrial, or agricultural purposes or recreation including the man-made or man-  
3 induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological or radiological integrity of water.

4 (18) "Pollution control facility" means any land or interest in land, the demolition,  
5 removal, relocation, acquisition, expansion, modification, alteration, or improvement of existing  
6 buildings, structures, or facilities, the construction of new buildings, structures, or facilities, the  
7 replacement, modification, or renovation of existing machinery and equipment, or the acquisition  
8 of new machinery and equipment, or any combination thereof, having to do with or the purpose  
9 of which is the abatement, control, or prevention of pollution, including industrial pollution, and  
10 all real and personal property incidental to that facility.

11 (19) "Port facility" means harbors, ports, and all real and personal property used in  
12 connection therewith, including, but not limited to, waterways, channels, wharves, docks, yards,  
13 bulkheads, slips, basins, pipelines, ships, boats, railroads, trucks, and other motor vehicles,  
14 aircraft, parking areas, shipyards, piers, quays, elevators, compressors, loading and unloading  
15 facilities, storage facilities, and warehouses of every type, buildings and facilities used in the  
16 manufacturing, processing, assembling, storing, or handling of any produce or products, other  
17 structures and facilities necessary for the convenient use of the harbors and seaports, including  
18 dredged approaches, railways, railroad terminals, side tracks, airports, roads, highways, tunnels,  
19 viaducts, bridges, and other approaches, useful in connection therewith, and any other shipping or  
20 transportation facility useful in the operation of a port or harbor.

21 (20) "Project" or "port project" means the acquisition, ownership, operation,  
22 construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, development, sale, lease, or other  
23 disposition of, or the provision of financing for, any real or personal property (by whomever  
24 owned) or any interests in real or personal property, including without limiting the generality of  
25 the foregoing, any port facility, recreational facility, industrial facility, airport facility, pollution  
26 control facility, utility facility, solid waste disposal facility, civic facility, residential facility,  
27 water supply facility, [energy facility or renewable energy facility](#), or any other facility, or any  
28 combination of two (2) or more of the foregoing, or any other activity undertaken by the  
29 corporation.

30 (21) "Project cost" means the sum total of all costs incurred by the corporation in  
31 carrying out all works and undertakings which the corporation deems reasonable and necessary  
32 for the development of a project. These shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the costs  
33 of all necessary studies, surveys, plans, and specifications, architectural, engineering, or other  
34 special services, acquisition of land and any buildings on the land, site preparation and

1 development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, and the acquisition of  
2 any machinery and equipment or other personal property as may be deemed necessary in  
3 connection with the project (other than raw materials, work in process, or stock in trade); the  
4 necessary expenses incurred in connection with the initial occupancy of the project; an allocable  
5 portion of the administrative and operating expenses of the corporation; the cost of financing the  
6 project, including interest on all bonds and notes issued by the corporation to finance the project  
7 from the date thereof to one year from the date when the corporation shall deem the project  
8 substantially occupied; and the cost of those other items, including any indemnity or surety bonds  
9 and premiums on insurance, legal fees, real estate brokers and agent fees, fees and expenses of  
10 trustees, depositories, and paying agent for bonds and notes issued by the corporation, including  
11 reimbursement to any project user for any expenditures as may be allowed by the corporation (as  
12 would be costs of the project under this section had they been made directly by the corporation),  
13 and relocation costs, all as the corporation shall deem necessary.

14 (22) "Project user" means the person, company, corporation, partnership, or commercial  
15 entity, municipality, state, or United States of America who shall be the user of, or beneficiary of,  
16 a port project.

17 (23) "Real property" means lands, structures (new or used), franchises, and interests in  
18 land, including lands under water, and riparian rights, space rights, and air rights, and all other  
19 things and rights usually included within the term. Real property shall also mean and include any  
20 and all interests in that property less than fee simple, such as easements, incorporeal  
21 hereditaments, and every estate, interest or right, legal or equitable, including terms for years and  
22 liens thereon by way of judgments, mortgages or otherwise, and also all claims for damages to  
23 that real property.

24 (24) "Recreational facility" means any building, development, or improvement, provided  
25 that building, facility, development, or improvement is designed in whole or in part to attract  
26 tourists to the state or to provide essential overnight accommodations to transients visiting this  
27 state, including, without limiting in any way the generality of the foregoing, marinas, beaches,  
28 bathing facilities, ski facilities, convention facilities, hotels, motels, golf courses, camp grounds,  
29 arenas, theatres, lodges, guest cottages, and all types of real or personal property related thereto as  
30 may be determined from time to time by the corporation.

31 (25) "Revenues" means (1) with respect to any project, the rents, fees, tolls, charges,  
32 installment payments, repayments, and other income or profit derived from a project or a  
33 combination of projects pursuant to any lease, conditional sales contract, installment sales  
34 contract, loan agreement, or other contract or agreement, or any combination thereof and (2) any

1 receipts, fees, payments, moneys, revenues or other payments received or to be received by the  
2 corporation in the exercise of its corporate powers under this chapter, including, without  
3 limitation, loan repayments, grants, aid, appropriations and other assistance for the state, the  
4 United States or any corporation, department or instrumentality of either or of a political  
5 subdivision thereof, bond proceeds, investment earnings, insurance proceeds, amounts in reserves  
6 and other funds and accounts established by or pursuant to this chapter or in connection with the  
7 issuance of bonds, and any other taxes, assessments, fees, charges, awards or other income or  
8 amounts received or receivable by the corporation.

9 (26) "Rule or regulation" means any directive promulgated by the corporation not  
10 inconsistent with the laws of the United States or the state, for the improvement of navigation and  
11 commerce or other project purposes and shall include, but not be limited to, charges, tolls, rates,  
12 rentals, and security provisions fixed or established by the corporation.

13 (27) "Sewage" shall be construed to mean the same as "pollutant" as defined in section  
14 42-64-3(o) above.

15 (28) "Sewage treatment facility" means the sewage treatment plant, structure, combined  
16 sewer overflows, equipment, interceptors, mains, pumping stations and other property, real,  
17 personal or mixed, for the treatment, storage, collection, transporting or disposal of sewage, or  
18 any property or system to be used in whole or in part for any of the aforesaid purposes located or  
19 operated within the boundaries of the Quonset Point/Davisville Industrial Park, or utilized by the  
20 corporation for the transport, collection, treatment, storage or disposal of waste.

21 (29) "Solid waste" means garbage, refuse, and other discarded materials, including, but  
22 not limited to, solid waste materials resulting from industrial, recreational, utility, and commercial  
23 enterprises, hotels, apartments, or any other public building or private building, or agricultural, or  
24 residential activities.

25 (30) "Solid waste disposal facility" means any real or personal property, related to or  
26 incidental to any project, which is designed or intended or designated for the purpose of treating,  
27 compacting, composting, or disposing of solid waste materials, including treatment, compacting,  
28 composting, or disposal plants, site and equipment furnishings thereof, and their appurtenances.

29 (31) "Source" means any building, structure, facility or installation from which there is  
30 or may be the discharge of sewage.

31 (32) "State" means the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

32 (33) "State agency" means any office, department, board, commission, bureau, division,  
33 authority, or public corporation, agency or instrumentality of the state.

34 (34) "State guide plan" means the plan adopted pursuant to section 42-11-10, which



1 establishes the statewide planning program.

2 (35) "Utility facility" means any real or personal property designed, intended or utilized  
3 for generating, manufacturing, producing, storing, transmitting, distributing, delivering, or  
4 furnishing natural or manufactured gas, steam, electrical, or nuclear energy, heat, light, or power  
5 directly or indirectly to or for any project, project user, or for the public, the collection and  
6 disposal of storm and sanitary sewage; any railroads necessary or desirable for the free flow of  
7 commerce to and from projects; any roads, highways, bridges, tunnels, viaducts, or other  
8 crossings necessary or desirable for the free flow of commerce to and from projects, and any  
9 public transportation systems or facilities, including, but not limited to, bus, truck, ferry, and  
10 railroad terminals, depots, tracked vehicles, and other rolling stock and ferries; and any  
11 appurtenances, equipment, and machinery or other personal property necessary or desirable for  
12 the utilization thereof.

13 (36) "Water supply facility" means any real or personal property, or any combination  
14 thereof, related to or incidental to any project, designed, intended, or utilized for the furnishing of  
15 water for domestic, industrial, irrigation, or other purposes and including artesian wells,  
16 reservoirs, dams, related equipment, and pipelines, and other facilities.

17 (37) "Renewable energy facility" means any real or personal property, or any  
18 combination thereof, related to, or incidental to, any project, designed, intended, or utilized for an  
19 eligible renewable energy resource that meets the criteria set forth in subsections 39-26-5(a) and  
20 39-26-5(c).

21 **42-64-4. Creation.** -- (a) There is authorized, created, and established a public  
22 corporation of the state having a distinct legal existence from the state and not constituting a  
23 department of state government, which is a governmental agency and public instrumentality of  
24 the state, to be known as the "Rhode Island economic development corporation", and which may  
25 be referred to as the "economic development corporation", with those powers that are set forth in  
26 this chapter, for the purposes of acquiring and developing real and personal property, and  
27 providing financing to others as set forth in this chapter, providing and promoting and  
28 encouraging the preservation, expansion and sound development of new and existing industry,  
29 business, commerce, agriculture, tourism, ~~and~~ recreational and renewable energy facilities,  
30 promoting thereby the economic development of the state and the general welfare of its citizens.

31 (b) The exercise by the corporation of the powers conferred by this chapter shall be  
32 deemed and held to be the performance of an essential governmental function of the state for  
33 public purposes. It is the intent of the general assembly by the passage of this chapter to vest in  
34 the corporation all powers, authority, rights, privileges, and titles which may be necessary to

1 enable it to accomplish the purposes herein set forth, and this chapter and the powers granted  
2 hereby shall be liberally construed in conformity with those purposes.

3 (c) The corporation and its corporate existence shall continue until terminated by law or  
4 until the corporation shall cease entirely and continuously to conduct or be involved in any  
5 business whatsoever in furtherance of its purposes; provided, that no termination shall take effect,  
6 so long as the corporation shall have bonds, notes, or other obligations outstanding, unless  
7 adequate provision shall have been made for the payment thereof pursuant to the documents  
8 securing the obligations or to the terminating law. Upon termination of the existence of the  
9 corporation, all of its rights and properties shall pass to and be vested in the state. At no time shall  
10 the assets or other property of the corporation inure to the benefit of any person or other  
11 corporation or entity.

12 **42-64-13.2. Renewable energy development fund.** -- The corporation shall, in the  
13 furtherance of its responsibilities to promote and encourage economic development, establish and  
14 administer a renewable energy development fund as provided for in ~~chapter 26 of title 39~~ [section](#)  
15 [39-26-7](#), and may exercise the powers set forth in this chapter, as necessary or convenient to  
16 accomplish this purpose, [and shall provide such administrative support as may be needed for the](#)  
17 [coordinated administration of the renewable energy standard as provided for in chapter 39-26 and](#)  
18 [the renewable energy program established by section 39-2-1.2. The corporation, upon the request](#)  
19 [of any person undertaking a renewable energy facility project, may grant project status to the](#)  
20 [project, and a renewable energy facility project which is given project status by the corporation](#)  
21 [shall be deemed an energy project of the corporation.](#)

22 SECTION 11. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
23 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

24 [CHAPTER 140](#)

25 [RHODE ISLAND ENERGY RESOURCES ACT](#)

26 **42-140-1. Short title.** -- [This chapter shall be known as the "Rhode Island Energy](#)  
27 [Resources Act."](#)

28 **42-140-2. Creation.** -- [There is hereby authorized, created and established an office of](#)  
29 [energy resources in the executive department of state government, which may be assigned by](#)  
30 [executive order for administrative purposes to a department within state government. The office](#)  
31 [of energy resources shall be the successor to the state energy office.](#)

32 **42-140-3. Purposes.** -- [The purposes of the office shall be to:](#)

33 [\(1\) Develop and put into effect plans and programs to promote, encourage, and assist the](#)  
34 [provision of energy resources for Rhode Island in a manner that enhances economic well-being,](#)

1 social equity, and environmental quality;

2 (2) Monitor, forecast, and report on energy use, energy prices, and energy demand and  
3 supply forecasts, and make findings and recommendations with regard to energy supply diversity,  
4 reliability, and procurement, including least-cost procurement;

5 (3) Develop and to put into effect plans and programs to promote, encourage and assist  
6 the efficient and productive use of energy resources in Rhode Island, and to coordinate energy  
7 programs for natural gas, electricity, and heating oil to maximize the aggregate benefits of  
8 conservation and efficiency of investments;

9 (4) Monitor and report technological developments that may result in new and /or  
10 improved sources of energy supply, increased energy efficiency, and reduced environmental  
11 impacts from energy supply, transmission and distribution;

12 (5) Administer the programs, duties, and responsibilities heretofore exercised by the state  
13 energy office, except as these may be assigned by executive order to other departments and  
14 agencies of state government;

15 (6) Develop, recommend and, as appropriate, implement integrated and/or comprehensive  
16 strategies, including at regional and federal levels, to secure Rhode Island's interest in energy  
17 resources, their supply and efficient use, and as necessary to interact with persons, private sector,  
18 non-profit, regional, federal entities and departments and agencies of other states to effectuate this  
19 purpose;

20 (7) Cooperate with agencies, departments, corporations, and entities of the state and of  
21 political subdivisions of the state in achieving its purposes;

22 (8) Cooperate with and assist the state planning council and the division of state planning  
23 in developing, maintaining, and implementing state guide plan elements pertaining to energy and  
24 renewable energy;

25 (9) Administer, as appropriate, state and federally funded or authorized energy programs,  
26 which may include, but not be limited to:

27 (1) the federal low-income home energy assistance program which provides heating  
28 assistance to eligible low-income persons and any state funded or privately funded heating  
29 assistance program of a similar nature assigned to it for administration;

30 (2) the weatherization assistance program which offers home weatherization grants and  
31 heating system upgrades to eligible persons of low-income;

32 (3) the emergency fuel program which provides oil deliveries to families experiencing a  
33 heating emergency;

34 (4) the energy conservation program, which offers service and programs to all sectors;

1 and

2 (5) the renewable energy program established under Rhode Island general laws chapter  
3 39-2;

4 (10) Develop, recommend, and evaluate energy programs for state facilities and  
5 operations in order to achieve and demonstrate the benefits of energy-efficiency, diversification  
6 of energy supplies, energy conservation, and demand management; and

7 (11) Advise the governor and the general assembly with regard to energy resources and  
8 all matters relevant to achieving the purposes of the office.

9 **42-140-4. Commissioner.** -- (a) There shall be a commissioner of energy resources, who  
10 shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The commissioner  
11 shall be the director of the office of energy resources and shall have all such powers, consistent  
12 with law, as are necessary and/or convenient to effectuate the purposes of the office and  
13 administer its functions. The commissioner shall have authority to exercise all of the powers and  
14 duties heretofore exercised by the head of the state energy office. In the performance of the duties  
15 set forth in this paragraph, the commissioner shall consult with the energy efficiency and  
16 resources management council established pursuant to chapter 42-140.1.

17 (b) The commissioner shall have authority to apply for, receive, and administer grants  
18 and funds from the federal government and all other public and private entities to accomplish the  
19 purposes of the office.

20 (c) The commissioner shall have authority to serve as executive secretary of the  
21 governor's technical assistance committee, established by section 42-60-4, and shall provide such  
22 staff and technical support to the technical assistance committee as the technical assistance  
23 committee may require, and shall have authority to carry out any duties assigned to the office by  
24 the governor in the event of a declaration of a state energy crisis as authorized under chapter 42-  
25 60 relating to energy crisis management.

26 **42-140-5. Authority to enter into agreements.** -- The commissioner shall have authority  
27 to enter into agreements with the trustees of the renewable energy development fund to achieve  
28 integrated and effective use of the renewable energy proper resources, subsections 39-2-1.2(b)  
29 and (c), and renewable energy standard resources, section 39-26-7. By mutual agreement with the  
30 trustees, the commissioner may serve as program manager for the renewable energy programs.

31 **42-140-6. Information and education programs.** -- The commissioner, in consultation  
32 with the council, shall develop, implement and maintain, a statewide public information and  
33 education program with regard to energy supply, energy cost, energy efficiency and conservation,  
34 and energy programs, including programs to help consumers select energy efficient products, to

1 evaluate retail and commercial energy resource choices, and to access available energy assistance  
2 programs including tax credit and rebate programs.

3 **42-140-7. Conduct of activities.** -- To the extent reasonable and practical, the conduct of  
4 activities under the provisions of this chapter shall be open and inclusive; the commissioner and  
5 the council shall seek in addressing the purposes of the office to involve the research and analytic  
6 capacities of institutions of higher education within the state, industry, advocacy groups, and  
7 regional entities, and shall seek input from stakeholders including, but not limited to, residential  
8 and commercial energy users.

9 **42-140-8. Annual report.** -- The commissioner shall report annually, on or before March  
10 1st of each year, to the governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house with  
11 regard to the status of energy supplies, markets, and conditions, the effectiveness of energy  
12 programs, the activities of the office including the council, and such other matters related to  
13 energy as the commissioner or the council may deem appropriate.

14 **42-140-9. Adoption of rules.** -- The commissioner shall have the authority to adopt,  
15 amend, and implement such rules as may be necessary to desirable to effectuate the purposes of  
16 this chapter. In any rule making by the commissioner, the commissioner shall consider as a matter  
17 of record the advise of the energy resources council.

18 SECTION 12. Title 42 of the general laws entitled "State Affairs and Government" is  
19 hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

20 CHAPTER 140.1

21 THE RHODE ISLAND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

22 COUNCIL

23 **42-140.1-1. Short title.** -- This chapter shall be known as "The Rhode Island Energy  
24 Efficiency and Resources Management Council Act."

25 **42-140.1-2. Legislative findings.** -- It is hereby found and declared:

26 (a) Rhode Island has experienced an energy cost crisis during 2005 and 2006 and faces  
27 the prospect of fluctuating and increasing energy prices in the future.

28 (b) Energy conservation and energy efficiency have enormous, untapped potential for  
29 controlling energy costs and mitigating the effects of energy crisis for Rhode Island residents and  
30 the Rhode Island economy.

31 (c) Rhode Island has lacked an integrated, comprehensive, public, stakeholder-driven  
32 organizational structure to secure for Rhode Island and its people the full benefits of energy  
33 efficiency, energy conservation, and energy resources management.

34 **42-140.1-3. Establishment of Council -- Purposes.** -- (a) There is hereby authorized,

1 created and established a council to be known as "The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and  
2 Resources Management Council" with the powers and duties set forth in this chapter.

3 (b) The purposes of this council are to:

4 (1) Evaluate and make recommendations, including, but not limited to, plans and  
5 programs, with regard to the optimization of energy efficiency, energy conservation, energy  
6 resource development; and the development of a plan for least-cost procurement for Rhode  
7 Island; and

8 (2) Provide consistent, comprehensive, informed and publicly accountable stake-holder  
9 involvement in energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy resource management; and

10 (3) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programs to achieve energy efficiency,  
11 energy conservation, and diversification of energy resources; and

12 (4) Promote public understanding of energy issues and of ways in which energy  
13 efficiency, energy conservation, and energy resource diversification and management can be  
14 effectuated.

15 **42-140.1-4. Composition and Appointment. --** (a) The council shall consist of eleven

16 (11) members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate; seven (7)  
17 members shall be voting numbers, and the governor shall give due consideration to appointing  
18 persons with knowledge of: (1) energy regulation and law; (2) large commercial/industrial users,  
19 (3) small commercial/industrial users; (4) residential users; (5) low income users; (6)  
20 environmental issues pertaining to energy; (7) energy design and codes; and four (4) members  
21 shall be ex-officio, non-voting members, representing an electric distribution entity, a gas  
22 distribution entity, fuel oil or heating fuel industry, and the commissioner of the office of energy  
23 resources. From the seven (7) voting members, the governor shall appoint one person to be  
24 chairperson of the council and one person to be vice chairperson of the council; the commissioner  
25 of the office of energy resources shall be the executive secretary and executive director of the  
26 council.

27 (b) With the exception of the commissioner of the office of energy resources; of the  
28 initial appointments; three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, three (3)  
29 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years, and four (4) members shall be appointed  
30 for a term of five (5) years; thereafter members of the council shall be appointed for a term of five  
31 (5) years and may be reappointed.

32 (c) A simple majority of the total number of voting members shall constitute a quorum.

33 (d) A vacancy other than by expiration shall be filled in the manner of the original  
34 appointment but only for the unexpired portion of the term. The appointing authority shall have

1 the power to remove its appointee for just cause.

2 (e) The members of the council shall not be compensated for their service but shall be  
3 reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The  
4 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the executive secretary/executive director.

5 **42-140.1-5. Powers and duties. -- The council shall have the power to:**

6 (a) Develop and recommend for implementation plans, programs and standards for  
7 energy conservation, energy efficiency, and diversification of energy resources.

8 (b) Monitor and evaluate plans and programs for energy conservation, energy efficiency  
9 and diversification of energy resources; in order to effectuate such evaluations the council may  
10 request audits, including performance audits, of any program for energy conservation, energy  
11 efficiency or diversification of energy resources, that is established pursuant to Rhode Island law  
12 or is administered by a state agency, a request for an audit of any program operative pursuant to  
13 an order or decision of the public utilities commission shall be made to the commission; the  
14 council may make findings and recommendations with regard to changes, modification or  
15 continuation of any programs which it has authority to monitor or evaluate.

16 (c) Submit to the joint committee on energy an annual report on/or before April 15 of  
17 each year, commencing in 2008, regarding the activities of the council, its assessment of energy  
18 issues, the status of system reliability, energy efficiency and conservation procurement and its  
19 recommendations regarding any improvements which might be necessary or desirable.

20 (d) Participate in proceedings of the public utilities commission that pertain to the  
21 purposes of the council, including but not limited to proceedings regarding least-cost procurement  
22 as provided for in section 39-1-27.7.

23 (e) Advise electric distribution companies with regard to implementation of least cost  
24 procurement.

25 (f) Advise the commission of energy resources, and recommend policies, standards,  
26 strategies, plans, programs, and procedures with regard to functions of the office of energy  
27 resources including but not limited to plans, strategies, and programs to:

28 (1) implement cost-effective energy conservation and energy efficiency programs;

29 (2) promote the development of eligible renewable energy resources for Rhode Island;

30 (3) foster distributed generation of electricity and demand response;

31 (4) assist low-income households in meeting energy needs;

32 (5) coordinate the use of funds, resources, and programs from diverse resources to  
33 achieve the purposes of the office.

34 (g) Consider such other matters as it may deem appropriate to the fulfillment of its

1 purposes, and may advise the governor, the general assembly, other parties, and the public with  
2 regard to matters pertaining to its purposes and duties, which advice may include findings and  
3 recommendations.

4 **42-140.1-6. Additional general powers.** -- In order to effectuate its powers and duties  
5 the council has the following powers:

6 (a) To make any studies of conditions, activities, or problems related to the state's energy  
7 needs, usage, and supplies to carry out its responsibilities.

8 (b) To adopt amend bylaws, to establish committees, to elect and/or appoint officers and  
9 agents, and to engage consultants and professional services as necessary and appropriate to fulfill  
10 its purposes.

11 (c) To accept and administer grants from the federal government and from other sources,  
12 public or private, for the carrying out of any of its functions, which loans or grants shall not be  
13 expended for other than the purposes for which provided.

14 (d) To work with the appropriate federal, regional, and state agencies, and private  
15 entities.

16 (e) To apply for, accept and expend allocations, grants and bequests of funds, for the  
17 purpose of carrying out the lawful responsibilities of the council.

18 SECTION 13. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "State Affairs and Government" is  
19 hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

20 CHAPTER 140.2

21 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

22 **42-140.2-1. Findings.** – It is hereby found and declared that:

23 (a) Distributed generation can if well implemented, contribute to electric system  
24 reliability and efficiency and have system benefits including, but not limited to, reduced  
25 congestion, improved management of system peak demands through demand response, and added  
26 capacity that mitigates the needs for additional central generating capacity in the region;

27 (b) Distributed generation from renewable resources diversifies the power sources for  
28 electrical generation, and having multiple, reliable sources of power for electrical generation  
29 reduces risks and can temper price volatility;

30 (c) Distributed generation from renewable resources and from combined heat and power  
31 systems can reduce the environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, of electrical  
32 generation;

33 (d) The system benefits of distributed generation are a function of the location of the  
34 distributed generation capacity, the reliability and the efficiency of distributed generation



1 facilities individually and/or collectively, and the time of operation of the distributed generation  
2 facilities;

3 (e) The value of distributed generation can vary with changes in the wholesale and retail  
4 markets for electricity;

5 (f) Properly designed regulatory and financing programs for distributed generation can  
6 have both system benefits and economic benefits for entities.

7 (g) The independent system operator of New England has stated that mitigating peak  
8 demand should be a central strategy in reducing wholesale electricity and has established a  
9 demand response to accomplish this purpose.

10 (h) Established tariffs and embedded principals for rate setting and cost allocation may  
11 present substantial barriers to realizing the full potential of distributed generation in Rhode Island.

12 **42-140.2-2. Office of energy resources.** – (1) The office of energy resources shall  
13 support and facilitate a stakeholder led study of issues pertaining to distributed generations and  
14 barriers that impede the implementation of distributed generation and the realization of the  
15 societal benefits thereof. This study shall augment, compliment, and be integrated with a study  
16 initiated pursuant to an order of the public utilities commission.

17 (2) Said study shall consider the following definitions and the implications thereof for the  
18 effective and fair implementation of distributed generation:

19 (a) "Backup power rates" means any component of utility tariffs that are charged only to  
20 those customers who install on-site generation, self-generation, behind-the-meter generation, or  
21 distributed generation. Backup power rates, also called "standby rates", include, but are not  
22 limited to, any rate, tariff, or surcharge billed on the basis of the amount of energy generated by,  
23 or demand change related to, or installed capacity size of, any generation unit installed by an end-  
24 use customer.

25 (b) "Combined heat and power system" means a system that produces, from a single  
26 source, both electric power and thermal energy used in any process or for heating that result in an  
27 aggregate reduction in energy use. To be considered a combined heat and power system for the  
28 purpose of this section, the system must achieve an average annual fuel conversion efficiency of  
29 at least fifty-five percent (55%).

30 (c) "Net-metering" means billing or charging an end-use customer only for the electricity  
31 supply or services which is the net amount of electricity actually delivered to the client by a  
32 supplier or service company, less any amount of electricity generated by or on behalf of the end-  
33 use customer and either used on the end-use customer's property or put on to the electric  
34 distribution grid within the same transmission interconnect area in which the end-use customers is

1 located.

2 (3) Said study shall make findings and recommendations using methods for determining  
3 and quantifying system benefits attributable to distributed generation including costs and benefits  
4 relating to:

5 (a) the electricity distribution system;

6 (b) the electricity transmission system;

7 (c) the electricity generating system and the cost and availability of capital needed to  
8 construct or maintain generation capacity;

9 (d) system losses;

10 (e) congestion and reliability;

11 (f) ancillary services including voltage stability and reactive power;

12 (g) fuel availability and pricing, and costs of electricity supply;

13 (h) environmental impacts.

14 (4) The commissioner of the office of energy resources shall report the findings and  
15 recommendations of the stakeholder's group with regard to any statutory changes necessary to  
16 reduce barriers to implementation of distributed generation to the general assembly by February  
17 1, 2007.

18 (5) The commission shall by June 1, 2007, issue the report of the stakeholder's group to  
19 the public utilities commission; and the commissioner is hereby authorized to request that the  
20 commission initiate proceedings with regard to establishing any appropriate rates and/or  
21 regulation necessary to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

22 (6) The findings and recommendations of the said stakeholder's group shall in no way be  
23 binding upon either the general assembly or the public utilities commission and may be accepted,  
24 accepted in part, rejected or rejected in part by the general assembly or the public utilities  
25 commission and until such action by either the general assembly or the public utilities  
26 commission, there shall be no further action on said recommendations.

27 **42-140.2-3. Implementation monitoring.** -- The energy efficiency and resources  
28 management council is hereby authorized and directed to monitor the implementation of  
29 distributed generation and to report its findings and recommendations biennially on or before  
30 February 1, commencing in 2009 and ending in 2015.

31 SECTION 14. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
32 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

33 CHAPTER 141

34 AFFORDABLE ENERGY

1           **42-141-1. Purpose.** – The legislature finds and declares: (a) That energy costs have been  
2 rising sharply while the incomes of low incomes households have been declining with the result  
3 that energy costs are substantial and growing hardship;

4           (b) That the housing stock occupied by many low income households is old and energy  
5 inefficient;

6           (c) That Rhode Island has lacked an overall state strategy and commitment to addressing  
7 these conditions; and

8           (d) That it is necessary for public health and welfare to address the energy needs of low  
9 income households in a manner that supports efficient use of energy resources.

10           **42-141-2. Definitions.** – For the purposes of this chapter the following terms have the  
11 following meanings:

12           (a) "Commission" means the public utilities commission established by chapter 39-1.

13           (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the office of energy resources  
14 established pursuant to chapter 42-140.

15           (c) "Council" means the energy efficiency and resources management council established  
16 pursuant to chapter 42-140.1.

17           (d) "Department" means the department of administration.

18           (e) "LIHEAP" means the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

19           (f) "Low income household" means a household with a gross annual income equal to or  
20 less than sixty percent (60%) of median family income and that is eligible for LIHEAP, as  
21 determined for each applicant by the office of energy resources, or its designee. A very low  
22 income household means a LIHEAP eligible household with a gross annual income equal to or  
23 less than one-hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the Federal poverty guideline for the  
24 household.

25           (g) "Person" means any individual, group of individuals, firm, corporation, association,  
26 partnership, or public or private entity.

27           **42-141-3. Plan.** – The commissioner, in consultation with the council, shall develop a  
28 state strategic plan for energy affordability on or before March 1, 2007, and each March 1  
29 thereafter, until March 1, 2019, which plan shall include strategies and actions to make energy  
30 affordable by low-income and, especially, very low income households, through a combination of  
31 energy efficiency, weatherization, and energy price mitigation measures, supported by resources  
32 from federal, state, and other sources, including LIHEAP and contributions made in support of  
33 LIHEAP under the provisions of state law, regulation, or order. The state strategic plan shall  
34 include:

1 (a) proposed activities to increase energy efficiency and weatherization in dwelling units  
2 occupied by low income and very low income households;

3 (b) propose allocations of funds from the affordable energy fund to be used for the  
4 purposes of reductions in electric and gas distribution rates and customers fees charged to such  
5 households, in accordance with subdivision 42-141-5(d)(2);

6 (c) estimates of revenues to the fund and expenditures from the fund to support the  
7 purposes of the fund during the next fiscal year;

8 (d) plans and standards for fair, effective and efficient administration of energy  
9 affordability activities and assistance to low income and very low income households that make  
10 use to the extent reasonable and practicable community organizations serving such households.

11 **42-141-4. Weatherization and energy conservation.** – (a) On or before January 1,  
12 2008, the office of energy resources in cooperation with the housing resources commission shall  
13 adopt a strategic plan to achieve energy efficiency in low and moderate income neighborhoods  
14 through weatherization and energy conservation measures, which strategic or portions thereof  
15 shall be incorporated into the state guide, as provided for in section 42-11-10, or before July 1,  
16 2008.

17 (b) Energy efficient mortgages. On or before July 1, 2008, the Rhode Island Housing and  
18 Mortgage Finance Corporation shall consider establishing and implementing a program to  
19 support energy efficiency residential mortgages and/or loans for up to fifteen percent (15%) of the  
20 appraised value of a dwelling for energy savings improvements and/or for weatherization and  
21 energy efficiency measures as provided for in this chapter, for which the monthly mortgage or  
22 loan payment does not exceed the likely reduction in utility and heating costs for the dwelling.

23 **42-141-5(a). Fund established.** – (1) A special account is hereby established in the state  
24 treasury to be called the "affordable energy fund."

25 (2) Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall remain available for  
26 expenditure in successive fiscal years.

27 (3) The fund shall be used for only those purposes enumerated in subsection 42-141-5(d).

28 (b) Financing of the fund. The fund shall consist of the following sources:

29 (1) Sums the legislature may appropriate;

30 (2) Moneys received from federal, state, private donor or other sources for the purpose of  
31 energy affordability by low income households;

32 (3) Fees required pursuant to subsection 42-141-5(c); and

33 (4) Any interest earned on the moneys in the fund.

34 (c) Affordable energy fees. – (1) An affordable energy fee in an amount set forth in this

1 subsection shall be imposed on gross receipts of electricity and gas companies and gross receipts  
2 on the sale of heating fuels not used for residential heating. The fee shall be remitted to the  
3 division of taxation according to the applicable schedule for the remission of the gross receipts  
4 tax as provided for in chapter 44-13 or the sales and use as provided for in chapter 44-18. The  
5 fees shall be as follows:

6 (i) Gas. One percent (1%) of the gross receipts of gas companies subject to the provisions  
7 of chapter 44-13, "Public Service Corporation Tax".

8 (ii) Electricity. One percent (1%) of the gross receipts of electric companies subject to the  
9 provisions of chapter 44-13. "Public Service Corporation Tax".

10 (iii) Heating fuel other than natural gas and electricity. Two percent (2%) of gross  
11 receipts from the sales and use of heating fuel subject to the provisions of chapter 44-18. "Sales  
12 and Use Taxes – Liability and Computation".

13 (2) Every person from whom an affordable energy fee is due shall be liable for the fee  
14 until it has been paid to the state.

15 **42-141-5(d). Purposes of the fund. – (1) The commissioner may use money from the**  
16 **fund to:**

17 (i) Support weatherization and energy conservation educational programs and  
18 weatherization and energy conservation services for low-income and very low income  
19 households;

20 (ii) Compensate electric and gas distribution companies for revenues lost due to the  
21 reductions in distribution and customer charges, in accordance with a plan approved by the  
22 commission, to very low income households, and if feasible to low income households, which  
23 shall, as a first priority, be used to provide up to a fifty percent (50%) reduction in the distribution  
24 and customer charges for a reasonable and prudent use by very low-income households of gas  
25 and electricity that does not exceed average use for comparable dwelling units.

26 (iii) Defray the cost of heating fuel delivered to very low income households by an  
27 amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the allowable cost of heating fuel and a total  
28 usage by the household, supported assistance from all sources overseen by the commissioner, that  
29 is reasonable and prudent and does not exceed average use for comparable dwelling units.

30 (iv) It is not the purpose of the fund to reduce the amount of assistance a household  
31 would otherwise receive from LIHEAP and other sources in the absence of the fund or to  
32 subsidize utility rates in effect as of July 1, 2006, and provided for by law.

33 (2) If the commissioner determines it is in the public interest to allocate funds for the  
34 purposes set forth in subparagraph (1)(ii) above, the commissioner shall notify the commission of

1 the amount of funds to be allocated for a specified period. The commission shall then direct the  
2 electric and/or gas distribution companies to file amendments to the appropriate tariffs to  
3 implement rate reductions designed to provide the rate reduction consistent with the amount  
4 allocated for the period designated, which amendments are subject to the review and approval of  
5 the commission. Once approval is given, the allocated funds shall be transferred to the gas and/or  
6 electric distribution company. Any funds held after transfer shall accumulate interest at the  
7 customer deposit rate ("interest"). If, at the end of the rate reduction period, there are any unused  
8 dollars from the fund, such dollars shall be returned to the affordable energy fund with interest.  
9 Likewise, if at the end of the rate reduction period, there were not enough funds allocated to  
10 cover the rate reduction as designed, the shortfall will be reimbursed from the affordable energy  
11 fund with interest; provided, however, if there are no additional funds available from the fund,  
12 such shortfall or uncovered balance of such shortfall will be recovered with interest from all  
13 customers in a manner and over the period approved by the commission.

14 **42-141-5(e). Administration and records of the fund.** – (1) The commissioner shall  
15 administer the fund in accordance with this chapter.

16 (2) The commissioner in consultation with the department shall adopt procedures  
17 governing the expenditure of, and accounting for, money expended from the fund.

18 (3) The commissioner is responsible for insuring that there are adequate moneys available  
19 in the fund to carry out the purposes of this section.

20 (4) The commissioner shall maintain accounting records showing the income and  
21 expenses of the fund.

22 **42-141-5(f). Expenditure of fund money.** -- Disbursements may be made from the fund  
23 for the following purposes:

24 (1) Necessary administrative expenses, personnel expenses and equipment costs of the  
25 office related to this section which shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the revenue of the fund;

26 (2) All costs to effectuate the purposes of the fund as set forth in subsection 42-141-5(d).

27 **42-141-5(g). Report to the legislature.** – (1) The commissioner shall submit a report to  
28 the legislature not later than the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day following the convening of each regular session  
29 of the legislature. The report may include information considered significant by the commissioner  
30 but must include:

31 (i) The amount of money expended under section 42-141-5 during the preceding fiscal  
32 year;

33 (ii) The amount and source of money received during the preceding fiscal year;

34 (iii) A detailed summary of activities funded by the fund during the preceding fiscal year;

1           (iv) The projected cost to the fund for affordable energy programs in the next fiscal year.

2           **42-141-6. Heating fuel procurement other than natural gas and electricity.** -- The  
3 commissioner shall seek to secure the best price over time for heating fuels delivered under  
4 agreements supported in whole or in part by funds administered by the office of energy resources  
5 and is hereby authorized to use margin over rack pricing to accomplish this purpose which  
6 margin will be established by September 1, annually, after consultation with the oil/heat institute  
7 of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Community Action Association. The commissioner shall  
8 report publicly with regard to heating fuel procurement experience in other jurisdictions and to a  
9 proposed least cost procurement plan for heating fuel in Rhode Island, and shall provide a public  
10 comment period of not less than twenty (20) days, prior to rendering decision on how to  
11 effectuate the requirements of this section. Effective October 1, 2006, the price herein provided  
12 shall be updated weekly and shall be published on a website maintained by the office of energy  
13 resources.

14           **42-141-7. Regulations.** -- The commissioner may adopt all rules and regulations  
15 necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

16           **42-141-8. Cooperation required.** -- The commissioner may request from any  
17 government agency, and the agency is authorized and directed to provide, any cooperation and  
18 assistance, services, and data, within the jurisdiction of the agency, as will enable the office of  
19 energy resources to properly perform or exercise any of its functions, duties and powers under  
20 this chapter.

21           **42-141-9 Construction.** -- This chapter, being necessary for the welfare of the state and  
22 its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate its purposes.

23           **42-141-10. Inconsistent provisions.** -- Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are  
24 inconsistent with the provisions of any other law or ordinance, general, special or local, the  
25 provisions of this chapter shall be controlling.

26           **42-141-11. Severability.** -- If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this  
27 chapter shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that judgment shall  
28 not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the chapter but shall be confined in its operation  
29 to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part directly involved in the controversy in which  
30 that judgment shall have been rendered.

31           **42-141-12. Transitional provision.** -- Effective September 1, 2006, in order to provide  
32 for transitional assistance to very low-income customers during fiscal year 2007, notwithstanding  
33 any law or order to the contrary, the following provisions shall apply to eligibility for restoration  
34 of gas and/or electric service to a very low-income customer who has been terminated from

1 service in calendar year 2006; the very low-income customer shall pay eighteen percent (18%) of  
2 the customer's unpaid balance and shall agree to remain current with payments for current usage  
3 and to pay one thirty-sixth (1/36) of one-half (1/2) of the remaining balance per month through  
4 June 2007; a very low income customer who complies with the provisions of this section shall be  
5 transitioned to the provision of subsection 39-2-1(e)(ii) and (iii) effective July 1, 2007, and the  
6 monthly payments on the remaining balance that have been made pursuant to such agreement  
7 shall be credited to the requirements of subdivision 39-2-1(e)(iv) for the forgiveness of  
8 arrearsages. A very low-income customer who elects to use the provisions of this section and who  
9 fails to comply with the terms of the agreement for the restoration of service under the provisions  
10 of this section shall be ineligible to apply for restoration of service under the provisions of  
11 subdivision 39-2-1(e) and shall be subject to termination of service effective April 15, 2007, and  
12 any unpaid balance shall be due in full and shall be payable in accordance with the rules of the  
13 commission. The provisions of this section shall be repealed effective July 2, 2007.

14 SECTION 14 Section 44-13-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-13 entitled "Public  
15 Service Corporation Tax" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 **44-13-4. Rate of taxation.** -- The tax imposed will be at the following rates:

17 (1) In the case of every corporation whose principal business is a steamboat or ferryboat  
18 business as a common carrier, every common carrier steam or electric railroad corporation, every  
19 street railway corporation, every common carrier dining, sleeping, chair, or parlor car  
20 corporation, every corporation whose principal business is selling and distributing water to the  
21 public, and every toll bridge corporation, one and one-fourth percent (1.25%) of its gross  
22 earnings;

23 (2) In the case of every corporation whose principal business is manufacturing, selling,  
24 distributing and/or transmitting currents of electricity to be used for light, heat, or motive power,  
25 four percent (4%) of its gross earnings, but deductions shall be made of gross earnings from the  
26 transmission or sale of electricity to other public utility corporations, non-regulated power  
27 producers, or municipal utilities for resale, whether within or outside of this state; provided, that  
28 the tax measured by the portion of the utility's gross earnings as is derived from the manufacture  
29 and sale of illuminating and heating gas and its by-products and the merchandising of gas  
30 appliances shall be computed at the rate of three percent (3%); provided, however, that effective  
31 July 1, 2007, the amount of the tax herein established shall be reduced by the fee due and paid to  
32 the affordable energy fund established by section 42-141-5;

33 (3) In the case of every express corporation carrying on its business on steamboats,  
34 steam or electric railroads, or street railways and of every public service corporation whose



1 principal business is that of a telegraph corporation, four percent (4%) of its gross earnings;

2 (4) In the case of every telecommunications corporation providing telecommunications  
3 service, ten percent (10%) of its gross earnings; provided, that the rate shall be nine percent (9%)  
4 effective July 1, 1985, eight percent (8%) effective July 1, 1986, seven percent (7%) effective  
5 July 1, 1987, six percent (6%) effective July 1, 1988, and five percent (5%) effective July 1,  
6 1997. For purposes of this chapter, "telecommunications service" means the transmission of any  
7 interactive two-way electromagnetic communications including voice, image, data, and other  
8 information, by means of wire, cable, including fiber optical cable, microwave, and radio wave,  
9 or any combinations of these media. This definition does not include value added non-voice  
10 services in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, content, code, and  
11 protocol of the information to be transmitted;

12 (5) In the case of every public service cable corporation, eight percent (8%) of its gross  
13 earnings;

14 (6) In the case of every corporation whose principal business is manufacturing, selling  
15 and/or distributing to the public illuminating or heating gas, three percent (3%) of its gross  
16 earnings.

17 SECTION 15 . Chapter 44-18 of the General Laws entitled "Sales and Use Taxes -  
18 Liability and Computation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

19 **44-18-30D. Credit for fees to the affordable energy fund. – Effective July 1, 2007,**  
20 **there shall be a credit, of the amount of the fee due and paid to the affordable energy fund**  
21 **established by section 42-141-5, against the gross receipts tax for the sales and use of heating fuel**  
22 **not exempted from taxation pursuant to subsection 44-18-30 (20).**

23 SECTION 16. Construction. -- This act, being necessary for the welfare of the state and  
24 its inhabitants shall be construed liberally so as to effectuate its purposes.

25 SECTION 17. Severability. – If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this  
26 act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that judgment shall not  
27 affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the act but shall be confined in its operation to the  
28 clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part directly involved in the controversy in which that  
29 judgment shall have been rendered.

30 SECTION 18. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC02697/SUB B/2  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

\*\*\*

1           This act would establish a comprehensive legislative mechanism to address the state's  
2 energy needs and costs.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC02697/SUB B/  
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