

2013 -- H 5225

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY -- ACQUISITION OF LAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cimini, Tomasso, Martin, Handy, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: January 31, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 37-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-6 entitled "Acquisition of
2 Land" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **37-6-2. Rules, regulations, and procedures of committee.** -- (a) The state properties
4 committee is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt and prescribe rules of procedure and
5 regulations, and from time to time amend, change, and eliminate rules and regulations, and make
6 such orders and perform such actions as it may deem necessary to the proper administration of
7 this chapter and sections 37-7-1 -- 37-7-9. In the performance of the commission's duties
8 hereunder, the commission may in any particular case prescribe a variation in procedure or
9 regulation when it shall deem it necessary in view of the exigencies of the case and the
10 importance of speedy action in order to carry out the intent and purpose of this chapter and
11 sections 37-7-1 -- 37-7-9. The commission shall file written notice thereof in the office of the
12 secretary of state. All filings shall be available for public inspection.

13 (b) The following siting criteria shall be utilized whenever current existing leases expire
14 or additional office space is needed:

15 (1) A preference shall be given to sites designated as enterprise zone census tracts
16 pursuant to chapter 64.3 of title 42, or in blighted and/or substandard areas pursuant to section 45-
17 31-8, or in downtown commercial areas where it can be shown the facilities would make a
18 significant impact on the economic vitality of the community's central business district;

19 (2) Consideration should be given to adequate access via public transportation for both

1 employees as well as the public being served, the needs of all users shall be considered, including
2 people who must utilize public transportation, especially the elderly and the disabled, and, where
3 appropriate, adequate parking. It shall be the policy of the state to consider people of all ages and
4 abilities and all appropriate forms of available transportation;

5 (3) A site must be consistent with the respective community's local comprehensive plan;
6 and

7 (4) The division of planning within the department of administration shall be included in
8 the evaluation of all future lease proposals.

9 (c) The state properties committee shall explain, in writing, how each site selected by the
10 committee for a state facility meets the criteria described in subsection (b) of this section. In the
11 event that a state facility that must be accessed by the public is located in an area that is not
12 accessible to public transportation, within a one-half (.5) mile radius, the committee's report must
13 indicate the reason for the lack of accessibility, which may include, but not be limited to,
14 disproportionate costs of accessible space compared to space located near public transportation.
15 The state properties committee shall provide an annual report to the general assembly, which
16 shall include this information.

17 (d) For any lease, rental agreement or extension of an existing rental agreement for
18 leased office and operating space which carries a term of five (5) years or longer, including any
19 options or extensions that bring the total term to five (5) years or longer, where the state is the
20 tenant and the aggregate rent of the terms exceeds five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) the
21 state properties committee shall request approval of the general assembly prior to entering into
22 any new agreements or signing any extensions with existing landlords. The state properties
23 committee, in the form of a resolution, shall provide information relating to the purpose of the
24 lease or rental agreement, the agency's current lease or rental costs, the expiration date of any
25 present lease or rental agreement, the range of costs of a new lease or rental agreement, the
26 proposed term of a new agreement, and the location and owner of the desired property.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would require the state properties committee to consider access to public
2 transportation when selecting a site for a public facility and to state specific reasons for the lack
3 of accessibility when they select a site less than one-half (.5) mile from public transportation. The
4 act would also require the committee prepare an annual report to the general assembly to monitor
5 compliance.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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