

2010 -- H 7265

LC00385

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - OIL SPILL RESPONSE FUND

Introduced By: Representatives Almeida, Carnevale, Slater, DeSimone, and Diaz

Date Introduced: January 28, 2010

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-12.7-5.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-12.7 entitled "Oil  
2 Spill Prevention, Administration and Response Fund" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **46-12.7-5.1. Purposes of the fund.** -- The director may use money from the fund to:

4 (1) Provide funds to cover promptly the costs of response, containment, and cleanup of  
5 oil spills into marine or estuarine waters, including, but not limited to, damage assessment costs,  
6 and wildlife rehabilitation as defined in this section.

7 (2) Provide funds to cover the costs of site evaluation activities. These activities shall  
8 include, but not be limited to, site mapping, installation of wells, collection, monitoring, and  
9 analysis of samples of air, soil, and/or water, and evaluation of the impacts of contamination on  
10 maritime and terrestrial shore line environments, production of the reports, and installation and  
11 the maintenance of necessary technology, and equipment for complete remedial action;

12 (3) Provide emergency loans and to cover response and cleanup costs and other damages  
13 suffered by the state or other persons or entities from oil spills or threatened oil spills;

14 (4) To pay for claims for damages, which cannot otherwise be compensated by  
15 responsible parties or the federal government, pursuant to section 46-12.7-8.1;

16 (5) Provide emergency loans to affected workers ineligible for unemployment insurance;

17 (6) Pay for structural improvements to vulnerable coastal features, including the  
18 Providence River Shipping Canal, in order to reduce the risk of oil tanker collisions, grounding,  
19 and spills;

1           (7) Pay for the restoration of natural resources damaged by an oil spill, where necessary  
2 and appropriate;

3           (8) Pay for response training and equipment; provided, that commencing on July 1,  
4 2010, the director of the fund shall appropriate one million dollars (\$1,000,000) specifically to  
5 obtain a firefighting foam training simulator, props, training foam and other necessary items  
6 required to provide for statewide firefighting training for flammable liquid fires. The initial  
7 training of at least thirty (30) trained trainers from the fire service will also be part of this  
8 appropriation. This appropriation will be administered by the Providence UASI foam task force;

9           (9) Pay for large-scale personnel drills and exercises; provided, further, that commencing  
10 on July 1, 2011, and each succeeding July 1 thereafter, the director shall make an appropriation of  
11 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to maintain the foam training simulator, provide for  
12 large scale firefighting foam training and drills, including related personnel costs, and  
13 maintenance of and acquisition of a reserve cache of foam agent for training and responses. This  
14 appropriation shall be administered by the Providence UASI foam task force;

15           (10) Pay for research, development, and monitoring activities as outlined in section 46-  
16 12.7-13; and

17           (11) Pay for the expenditures related to the Rhode Island coastal and estuarine habitat  
18 restoration trust fund pursuant to chapter 23.1 of this title, subject to appropriation.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would provide that additional appropriations be made to cover the costs of  
2 certain training and equipment with regard to the "oil spill fund".

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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