

2014 -- S 2496

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LC004627  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT -- BEACH FEES

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Cote, Ottiano, Hodgson, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-17.1-9.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-17.1 entitled  
2 "Department of Environmental Management" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-17.1-9.1. User fees at state beaches, parks, and recreation areas.** -- (a) The  
4 department of environmental management in pursuance of its administrative duties and  
5 responsibilities may charge a user fee for any state beach, or recreational area under its  
6 jurisdiction, and fees for the use of its services or facilities.

7 (b) The fee may be on a daily or annual basis, or both, and may be based on vehicle  
8 parking or other appropriate means. The fees may recognize the contribution of Rhode Island  
9 taxpayers to support the facilities in relation to other users of the state's facilities. The fee  
10 structure may acknowledge the need to provide for all people, regardless of circumstances.

11 (c) An additional fee for camping and other special uses may be charged where  
12 appropriate. Rates so charged should be comparable to equivalent commercial facilities.

13 (d) ~~All such fees shall be established after a public hearing.~~ [Commencing with the May](#)  
14 [24, 2014 beach season, beach fees shall be in accordance with subsection \(h\) of this section.](#)

15 (e) All daily fees from beach parking, which shall also include fees charged and  
16 collected at Ninigret conservation area and Charlestown breachway, shall be shared with the  
17 municipality in which the facility is located on the basis of eighty-four percent (84%) retained by  
18 the state and sixteen percent (16%) remitted to the municipality.

1 (f) Fifty percent (50%) of all user and concession fees received by the state shall be  
2 deposited as general revenues. For the year beginning July 1, 1979, the proportion of user and  
3 concession fees to be received by the state shall be sixty-five percent (65%); for the year  
4 beginning July 1, 1980, eighty-five percent (85%); and for the year beginning July 1, 1981, and  
5 all years thereafter, one hundred percent (100%). The general revenue monies appropriated are  
6 hereby specifically dedicated to meeting the costs of development, renovation of, and acquisition  
7 of state-owned recreation areas and for regular maintenance, repair and operation of state owned  
8 recreation areas. Purchases of vehicles and equipment and repairs to facilities shall not exceed  
9 four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) annually. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 37-  
10 1-1 or any other provision of the general laws, the director of the department of environmental  
11 management is hereby authorized to accept any grant, devise, bequest, donation, gift, or  
12 assignment of money, bonds, or other valuable securities for deposit in the same manner as  
13 provided above for user and concession fees retained by the state.

14 (g) No fee shall be charged to any school or other nonprofit organization provided that a  
15 representative of the school or other organization gives written notice of the date and time of their  
16 arrival to the facility.

17 (h) For the season beginning May 24, 2014, beach parking fees shall be as follows:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 18 <u>(1) Resident season pass</u>  | <u>thirty dollars (\$30.00)</u>   |
| 19 <u>(2) Nonresident season pass</u>   | <u>sixty dollars (\$60.00)</u>    |
| 20 <u>(3) Resident day pass – Weekday</u>   | <u>six dollars (\$6.00)</u>       |
| 21 <u>(4) Nonresident day pass – Weekday</u>  | <u>twelve dollars (\$12.00)</u>   |
| 22 <u>(5) Resident day pass – Weekend</u>   | <u>seven dollars (\$7.00)</u>     |
| 23 <u>(6) Nonresident day pass – Weekend</u>  | <u>fourteen dollars (\$14.00)</u> |
| 24 <u>(7) Fees charged residents and nonresidents over the age of sixty-five (65) shall be one-</u> |                                   |

25 half (½) of the fees stipulated in subsections (h)(1) through (h)(6).

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT -- BEACH FEES

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- 1           This act would establish beach parking rates for the season commencing May 24, 2014,
- 2   and thereafter.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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