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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 10, 2010

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3           **42-17.1-2. Powers and duties.** -- The director of environmental management shall have  
4 the following powers and duties:

5           (1) To supervise and control the protection, development, planning, and utilization of the  
6 natural resources of the state, such resources, including but not limited to, water, plants, trees,  
7 soil, clay, sand, gravel, rocks and other minerals, air, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish,  
8 shellfish, and other forms of aquatic, insect, and animal life;

9           (2) To exercise all functions, powers, and duties heretofore vested in the department of  
10 agriculture and conservation, and in each of the divisions of the department, such as the  
11 promotion of agriculture and animal husbandry in their several branches, including the inspection  
12 and suppression of contagious diseases among animals, the regulation of the marketing of farm  
13 products, the inspection of orchards and nurseries, the protection of trees and shrubs from  
14 injurious insects and diseases, protection from forest fires, the inspection of apiaries and the  
15 suppression of contagious diseases among bees, prevention of the sale of adulterated or  
16 misbranded agricultural seeds, promotion and encouragement of the work of farm bureaus in  
17 cooperation with the University of Rhode Island, farmers' institutes and the various organizations  
18 established for the purpose of developing an interest in agriculture, together with such other  
19 agencies and activities as the governor and the general assembly may from time to time place

1 under the control of the department, and as heretofore vested by such of the following chapters  
2 and sections of the general laws as are presently applicable to the department of environmental  
3 management and which were previously applicable to the department of natural resources and the  
4 department of agriculture and conservation or to any of its divisions: chapters 1 through 22,  
5 inclusive, as amended, in title 2 entitled "Agriculture and Forestry;" chapters 1 through 17,  
6 inclusive, as amended, in title 4 entitled "Animals and Animal Husbandry;" chapters 1 through  
7 19, inclusive, as amended, in title 20 entitled "Fish and Wildlife;" chapters 1 through 32,  
8 inclusive, as amended, in title 21 entitled "Food and Drugs;" chapter 7 of title 23 as amended,  
9 entitled "Mosquito Abatement;" and by any other general or public law relating to the department  
10 of agriculture and conservation or to any of its divisions or bureaus;

11 (3) To exercise all the functions, powers, and duties heretofore vested in the division of  
12 parks and recreation of the department of public works by chapters 1, 2, and 5 in title 32 entitled  
13 "Parks and Recreational Areas;" by chapter 22.5 of title 23, as amended, entitled "Drowning  
14 Prevention and Lifesaving;" and by any other general or public law relating to the division of  
15 parks and recreation;

16 (4) To exercise all the functions, powers, and duties heretofore vested in the division of  
17 harbors and rivers of the department of public works, or in the department itself by such as were  
18 previously applicable to the division or the department, of chapters 1 through 22 and sections  
19 thereof, as amended, in title 46 entitled "Waters and Navigation"; and by any other general or  
20 public law relating to the division of harbors and rivers;

21 (5) To exercise all the functions, powers and duties heretofore vested in the department  
22 of health by chapters 25, 18.9, and 19.5 of title 23, as amended, entitled "Health and Safety;" and  
23 by chapters 12 and 16 of title 46, as amended, entitled "Waters and Navigation"; by chapters 3, 4,  
24 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 18, and 19 of title 4, as amended, entitled "Animals and Animal Husbandry;"  
25 and those functions, powers, and duties specifically vested in the director of environmental  
26 management by the provisions of section 21-2-22, as amended, entitled "Inspection of Animals  
27 and Milk;" together with other powers and duties of the director of the department of health as are  
28 incidental to or necessary for the performance of the functions transferred by this section;

29 (6) To cooperate with the Rhode Island economic development corporation in its  
30 planning and promotional functions, particularly in regard to those resources relating to  
31 agriculture, fisheries, and recreation;

32 (7) To cooperate with, advise, and guide conservation commissions of cities and towns  
33 created under chapter 35 of title 45 entitled "Conservation Commissions", as enacted by chapter  
34 203 of the Public Laws, 1960;

1 (8) To assign or reassign, with the approval of the governor, any functions, duties, or  
2 powers established by this chapter to any agency within the department, except as hereinafter  
3 limited;

4 (9) To cooperate with the water resources board and to provide to the board facilities,  
5 administrative support, staff services, and such other services as the board shall reasonably  
6 require for its operation and, in cooperation with the board and the statewide planning program to  
7 formulate and maintain a long range guide plan and implementing program for development of  
8 major water sources transmissions systems needed to furnish water to regional and local  
9 distribution systems;

10 (10) To cooperate with the solid waste management corporation and to provide to the  
11 corporation such facilities, administrative support, staff services and such other services within  
12 the department as the corporation shall reasonably require for its operation;

13 (11) To provide for the maintenance of waterways and boating facilities, consistent with  
14 chapter 6.1 of title 46, by: (i) establishing minimum standards for upland beneficial use and  
15 disposal of dredged material; (ii) promulgating and enforcing rules for water quality, ground  
16 water protection, and fish and wildlife protection pursuant to section 42-17.1-24; (iii) planning for  
17 the upland beneficial use and/or disposal of dredged material in areas not under the jurisdiction of  
18 the council pursuant to section 46-23-6(2); and (iv) cooperating with the coastal resources  
19 management council in the development and implementation of comprehensive programs for  
20 dredging as provided for in sections 46-23-6(1)(ii)(H) and 46-23-18.3; and (v) monitoring dredge  
21 material management and disposal sites in accordance with the protocols established pursuant to  
22 section 46-6.1-5(3) and the comprehensive program provided for in section 46-23-6(1)(ii)(H); no  
23 powers or duties granted herein shall be construed to abrogate the powers or duties granted to the  
24 coastal resources management council under chapter 23 of title 46, as amended;

25 (12) To establish minimum standards, subject to the approval of the environmental  
26 standards board, relating to the location, design, construction and maintenance of all sewage  
27 disposal systems. An analysis of the cost of environmental compliance must be considered in  
28 establishing these minimum standards. Provided, that commencing on the effective date of this  
29 section, there shall be a statewide moratorium on all sewage disposal system non-emergency  
30 upgrades ordered by the department of emergency management for a period of five (5) years.  
31 The moratorium shall not apply to any necessary upgrades determined by the department to  
32 prevent an imminent health danger;

33 (13) To enforce, by such means as provided by law, the standards for the quality of air,  
34 and water, and the design, construction and operation of all sewage disposal systems; any order or

1 notice issued by the director relating to the location, design, construction or maintenance of a  
2 sewage disposal system shall be eligible for recordation under chapter 13 of title 34. [The useful](#)  
3 [life of equipment and treatment processors that were mandated shall be taken into consideration](#)  
4 [before requiring the instillation of new equipment and treatment methods. Development shall be](#)  
5 [located in areas that have adequate existing infrastructure.](#) The director shall forward the order or  
6 notice to the city or town wherein the subject property is located and the order or notice shall be  
7 recorded in the general index by the appropriate municipal official in the land evidence records in  
8 the city or town wherein the subject property is located. Any subsequent transferee of that  
9 property shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of the order or notice. Upon  
10 satisfactory completion of the requirements of the order or notice, the director shall provide  
11 written notice of the same, which notice shall be similarly eligible for recordation. The original  
12 written notice shall be forwarded to the city or town wherein the subject property is located and  
13 the notice of satisfactory completion shall be recorded in the general index by the appropriate  
14 municipal official in the land evidence records in the city or town wherein the subject property is  
15 located. A copy of the written notice shall be forwarded to the owner of the subject property  
16 within five (5) days of a request for it, and, in any event, shall be forwarded to the owner of the  
17 subject property within thirty (30) days after correction;

18 (14) To establish minimum standards for the establishment and maintenance of salutary  
19 environmental conditions, including standards and methods for the assessment and the  
20 consideration of the cumulative effects on the environment of regulatory actions and decisions,  
21 which standards for consideration of cumulative effects shall provide for: (i) evaluation of  
22 potential cumulative effects that could adversely effect public health and/or impair ecological  
23 functioning; (ii) analysis of such other matters relative to cumulative effects as the department  
24 may deem appropriate in fulfilling its duties, functions and powers; which standards and methods  
25 shall only be applicable to ISDS systems in the town of Jamestown in areas that are dependent for  
26 water supply on private and public wells, unless broader use is approved by the general assembly.  
27 The department shall report to the general assembly not later than March 15, 2008 with regard to  
28 the development and application of such standards and methods in Jamestown.

29 (15) To establish and enforce minimum standards for permissible types of septage,  
30 industrial waste disposal sites and waste oil disposal sites;

31 (16) To establish minimum standards subject to the approval of the environmental  
32 standards board for permissible types of refuse disposal facilities, the design, construction,  
33 operation, and maintenance of disposal facilities; and the location of various types of facilities.  
34 [An emphasis should be placed on energy-efficient designs and sustainable treatment practices;](#)

1 (17) To exercise all functions, powers, and duties necessary for the administration of  
2 chapter 19.1 of title 23 entitled "Rhode Island Hazardous Waste Management Act";

3 (18) To designate in writing any person in any department of the state government or any  
4 official of a district, county, city, town, or other governmental unit, with that official's consent, to  
5 enforce any rule, regulation, or order promulgated and adopted by the director under any  
6 provision of law; provided, however, that enforcement of powers of the coastal resources  
7 management council shall be assigned only to employees of the department of environmental  
8 management, except by mutual agreement or as otherwise provided in chapter 23 of title 46;

9 (19) To issue and enforce such rules, regulations, and orders as may be necessary to  
10 carry out the duties assigned to the director and the department by any provision of law; and to  
11 conduct such investigations and hearings and to issue, suspend, and revoke such licenses as may  
12 be necessary to enforce those rules, regulations, and orders.

13 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 42-35-9 to the contrary, no informal  
14 disposition of a contested licensing matter shall occur where resolution substantially deviates  
15 from the original application unless all interested parties shall be notified of said proposed  
16 resolution and provided with opportunity to comment upon said resolution pursuant to applicable  
17 law and any rules and regulations established by the director.

18 (20) To enter, examine or survey at any reasonable time such places as the director  
19 deems necessary to carry out his or her responsibilities under any provision of law subject to the  
20 following provisions:

21 (i) For criminal investigations, the director shall, pursuant to chapter 5 of title 12, seek a  
22 search warrant from an official of a court authorized to issue warrants, unless a search without a  
23 warrant is otherwise allowed or provided by law;

24 (ii) (A) All administrative inspections shall be conducted pursuant to administrative  
25 guidelines promulgated by the department in accordance with chapter 35 of title 42.

26 (B) A warrant shall not be required for administrative inspections if conducted under the  
27 following circumstances, in accordance with the applicable constitutional standards:

28 (I) For closely regulated industries;

29 (II) In situations involving open fields or conditions that are in plain view;

30 (III) In emergency situations;

31 (IV) In situations presenting an imminent threat to the environment or public health,  
32 safety or welfare;

33 (V) If the owner, operator, or agent in charge of the facility, property, site or location  
34 consents; or

1 (VI) In other situations in which a warrant is not constitutionally required.

2 (C) Whenever it shall be constitutionally or otherwise required by law, or whenever the  
3 director in his or her discretion deems it advisable, an administrative search warrant, or its  
4 functional equivalent, may be obtained by the director from a neutral magistrate for the purpose  
5 of conducting an administrative inspection. The warrant shall be issued in accordance with the  
6 applicable constitutional standards for the issuance of administrative search warrants. The  
7 administrative standard of probable cause, not the criminal standard of probable cause, shall  
8 apply to applications for administrative search warrants.

9 (I) The need for, or reliance upon, an administrative warrant shall not be construed as  
10 requiring the department to forfeit the element of surprise in its inspection efforts.

11 (II) An administrative warrant issued pursuant to this subsection must be executed and  
12 returned within ten (10) days of its issuance date unless, upon a showing of need for additional  
13 time, the court orders otherwise.

14 (III) An administrative warrant may authorize the review and copying of documents that  
15 are relevant to the purpose of the inspection. If documents must be seized for the purpose of  
16 copying, and the warrant authorizes such seizure, the person executing the warrant shall prepare  
17 an inventory of the documents taken. The time, place and manner regarding the making of the  
18 inventory shall be set forth in the terms of the warrant itself, as dictated by the court. A copy of  
19 the inventory shall be delivered to the person from whose possession or facility the documents  
20 were taken. The seized documents shall be copied as soon as feasible under circumstances  
21 preserving their authenticity, then returned to the person from whose possession or facility the  
22 documents were taken.

23 (IV) An administrative warrant may authorize the taking of samples of air, water or soil  
24 or of materials generated, stored or treated at the facility, property, site or location. Upon request,  
25 the department shall make split samples available to the person whose facility, property, site or  
26 location is being inspected.

27 (V) Service of an administrative warrant may be required only to the extent provided for  
28 in the terms of the warrant itself, by the issuing court.

29 (D) Penalties. - Any willful and unjustified refusal of right of entry and inspection to  
30 department personnel pursuant to an administrative warrant shall constitute a contempt of court  
31 and shall subject the refusing party to sanctions, which in the court's discretion may result in up to  
32 six (6) months imprisonment and/or a monetary fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per  
33 refusal.

34 (21) To give notice of an alleged violation of law to the person responsible therefor

1 whenever the director determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is a  
2 violation of any provision of law within his or her jurisdiction or of any rule or regulation adopted  
3 pursuant to authority granted to him or her, unless other notice and hearing procedure is  
4 specifically provided by that law. Nothing in this chapter shall limit the authority of the attorney  
5 general to prosecute offenders as required by law.

6 (i) The notice shall provide for a time within which the alleged violation shall be  
7 remedied, and shall inform the person to whom it is directed that a written request for a hearing  
8 on the alleged violation may be filed with the director within ten (10) days after service of the  
9 notice. The notice will be deemed properly served upon a person if a copy thereof is served him  
10 or her personally, or sent by registered or certified mail to his or her last known address, or if he  
11 or she is served with notice by any other method of service now or hereafter authorized in a civil  
12 action under the laws of this state. If no written request for a hearing is made to the director  
13 within ten (10) days of the service of notice, the notice shall automatically become a compliance  
14 order.

15 (ii) (A) Whenever the director determines that there exists a violation of any law, rule, or  
16 regulation within his or her jurisdiction which requires immediate action to protect the  
17 environment, he or she may, without prior notice of violation or hearing, issue an immediate  
18 compliance order stating the existence of the violation and the action he or she deems necessary.  
19 The compliance order shall become effective immediately upon service or within such time as is  
20 specified by the director in such order. No request for a hearing on an immediate compliance  
21 order may be made.

22 (B) Any immediate compliance order issued under this section without notice and prior  
23 hearing shall be effective for no longer than forty-five (45) days; provided, however, that for  
24 good cause shown the order may be extended one additional period not exceeding forty-five (45)  
25 days.

26 (iii) If a person upon whom a notice of violation has been served under the provisions of  
27 this section or if a person aggrieved by any such notice of violation requests a hearing before the  
28 director within ten (10) days of the service of notice of violation, the director shall set a time and  
29 place for the hearing, and shall give the person requesting that hearing at least five (5) days  
30 written notice thereof. After the hearing, the director may make findings of fact and shall sustain,  
31 modify, or withdraw the notice of violation. If the director sustains or modifies the notice, that  
32 decision shall be deemed a compliance order and shall be served upon the person responsible in  
33 any manner provided for the service of the notice in this section.

34 (iv) The compliance order shall state a time within which the violation shall be remedied,

1 and the original time specified in the notice of violation shall be extended to the time set in the  
2 order.

3 (v) Whenever a compliance order has become effective, whether automatically where no  
4 hearing has been requested, where an immediate compliance order has been issued, or upon  
5 decision following a hearing, the director may institute injunction proceedings in the superior  
6 court of the state for enforcement of the compliance order and for appropriate temporary relief,  
7 and in that proceeding the correctness of a compliance order shall be presumed and the person  
8 attacking the order shall bear the burden of proving error in the compliance order, except that the  
9 director shall bear the burden of proving in the proceeding the correctness of an immediate  
10 compliance order. The remedy provided for in this section shall be cumulative and not exclusive  
11 and shall be in addition to remedies relating to the removal or abatement of nuisances or any  
12 other remedies provided by law.

13 (vi) Any party aggrieved by a final judgment of the superior court may, within thirty (30)  
14 days from the date of entry of such judgment, petition the supreme court for a writ of certiorari to  
15 review any questions of law. The petition shall set forth the errors claimed. Upon the filing of the  
16 petition with the clerk of the supreme court, the supreme court may, if it sees fit, issue its writ of  
17 certiorari;

18 (22) To impose administrative penalties in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
19 17.6 of this title and to direct that such penalties be paid into the account established by  
20 subdivision (26); and

21 (23) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of the provisions of this  
22 chapter:

23 (i) Director: - The term "director" shall mean the director of environmental management  
24 of the state of Rhode Island or his or her duly authorized agent.

25 (ii) Person: - The term "person" shall include any individual, group of individuals, firm,  
26 corporation, association, partnership or private or public entity, including a district, county, city,  
27 town, or other governmental unit or agent thereof, and in the case of a corporation, any individual  
28 having active and general supervision of the properties of such corporation.

29 (iii) Service: - (A) Service upon a corporation under this section shall be deemed to  
30 include service upon both the corporation and upon the person having active and general  
31 supervision of the properties of such corporation.

32 (B) For purposes of calculating the time within which a claim for a hearing is made  
33 pursuant to subdivision (21)(i) of this section heretofore, service shall be deemed to be the date of  
34 receipt of such notice or three (3) days from the date of mailing of said notice, whichever shall



1 first occur.

2 (24) (i) To conduct surveys of the present private and public camping and other  
3 recreational areas available and to determine the need for and location of such other camping and  
4 recreational areas as may be deemed necessary and in the public interest of the state of Rhode  
5 Island and to report back its findings on an annual basis to the general assembly on or before  
6 March 1 of every year;

7 (ii) Additionally, the director of the department of environmental management shall take  
8 such additional steps, including but not limited to, matters related to funding as may be necessary  
9 to establish such other additional recreational facilities and areas as are deemed to be in the public  
10 interest.

11 (25) (i) To apply for and accept grants and bequests of funds with the approval of the  
12 director of administration from other states, interstate agencies and independent authorities, and  
13 private firms, individuals and foundations, for the purpose of carrying out his or her lawful  
14 responsibilities. The funds shall be deposited with the general treasurer in a restricted receipt  
15 account created in the Natural Resources Program for funds made available for that program's  
16 purposes or in a restricted receipt account created in the Environmental Protection Program for  
17 funds made available for that program's purposes. All expenditures from the accounts shall be  
18 subject to appropriation by the general assembly, and shall be expended in accordance with the  
19 provisions of the grant or bequest. In the event that a donation or bequest is unspecified or in the  
20 event that the trust account balance shows a surplus after the project as provided for in the grant  
21 or bequest has been completed, the director may utilize said appropriated unspecified or  
22 appropriated surplus funds for enhanced management of the department's forest and outdoor  
23 public recreation areas, or other projects or programs that promote the accessibility of recreational  
24 opportunities for Rhode Island residents and visitors.

25 (ii) The director shall submit to the house fiscal advisor and the senate fiscal advisor, by  
26 October 1 of each year, a detailed report on the amount of funds received and the uses made of  
27 such funds.

28 (26) To establish fee schedules by regulation with the approval of the governor for the  
29 processing of applications and the performing of related activities in connection with the  
30 department's responsibilities pursuant to subdivision (12) of this section, chapter 19.1 of title 23  
31 as it relates to inspections performed by the department to determine compliance with chapter  
32 19.1 and rules and regulations promulgated in accordance therewith, chapter 18.9 of title 23 as it  
33 relates to inspections performed by the department to determine compliance with chapter 18.9  
34 and the rules and regulations promulgated in accordance therewith, chapters 19.5 and 23 of title

1 23; chapter 12 of title 46 insofar as it relates to water quality certifications and related reviews  
2 performed pursuant to provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, the regulation and  
3 administration of underground storage tanks and all other programs administered under chapter  
4 12 of title 46 and section 2-1-18 et seq., and chapter 13.1 of title 46 and chapter 13.2 of title 46  
5 insofar as they relate to any reviews and related activities performed under the provisions of the  
6 Groundwater Protection Act, chapter 23-24.9 as it relates to the regulation and administration of  
7 mercury-added products, and chapter 17.7 of this title insofar as it relates to administrative  
8 appeals of all enforcement, permitting and licensing matters to the administrative adjudication  
9 division for environmental matters. Two (2) fee ranges shall be required: for "Appeal of  
10 enforcement actions", a range of fifty dollars (\$50) to one hundred dollars (\$100), and for  
11 "Appeal of application decisions", a range of five hundred dollars (\$500) to ten thousand dollars  
12 (\$10,000). The monies from the administrative adjudication fees will be deposited as general  
13 revenues and the amounts appropriated shall be used for the costs associated with operating the  
14 administrative adjudication division.

15         There is hereby established an account within the general fund to be called the water and  
16 air protection program. The account shall consist of sums appropriated for water and air pollution  
17 control and waste monitoring programs and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed  
18 to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of such sums or such portions  
19 thereof as may be required from time to time upon receipt by him or her of properly authenticated  
20 vouchers. All amounts collected under the authority of this subdivision for the sewage disposal  
21 system program and fresh waters wetlands program will be deposited as general revenues and the  
22 amounts appropriated shall be used for the purposes of administering and operating the programs.  
23 The director shall submit to the house fiscal advisor and the senate fiscal advisor by January 15 of  
24 each year a detailed report on the amount of funds obtained from fines and fees and the uses made  
25 of such funds.

26         (27) To establish and maintain a list or inventory of areas within the state worthy of  
27 special designation as "scenic" to include, but not be limited to, certain state roads or highways,  
28 scenic vistas and scenic areas, and to make the list available to the public.

29         (28) To establish and maintain an inventory of all interests in land held by public and  
30 private land trust and to exercise all powers vested herein to insure the preservation of all  
31 identified lands.

32         (i) The director may promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to provide for the  
33 orderly and consistent protection, management, continuity of ownership and purpose, and  
34 centralized records-keeping for lands, water, and open spaces owned in fee or controlled in full or

1 in part through other interests, rights, or devices such as conservation easements or restrictions,  
2 by private and public land trusts in Rhode Island. The director may charge a reasonable fee for  
3 filing of each document submitted by a land trust.

4 (ii) The term "public land trust" means any public instrumentality created by a Rhode  
5 Island municipality for the purposes stated herein and financed by means of public funds  
6 collected and appropriated by the municipality. The term "private land trust" means any group of  
7 five (5) or more private citizens of Rhode Island who shall incorporate under the laws of Rhode  
8 Island as a nonbusiness corporation for the purposes stated herein, or a national organization such  
9 as the nature conservancy. The main purpose of either a public or a private land trust shall be the  
10 protection, acquisition, or control of land, water, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plants, and/or other  
11 natural features, areas, or open space for the purpose of managing or maintaining, or causing to  
12 be managed or maintained by others, the land, water, and other natural amenities in any  
13 undeveloped and relatively natural state in perpetuity. A private land trust must be granted  
14 exemption from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code 501c(3) [26 U.S.C. section  
15 501(c)(3)]within two (2) years of its incorporation in Rhode Island or it may not continue to  
16 function as a land trust in Rhode Island. A private land trust may not be incorporated for the  
17 exclusive purpose of acquiring or accepting property or rights in property from a single  
18 individual, family, corporation, business, partnership, or other entity. Membership in any private  
19 land trust must be open to any individual subscribing to the purposes of the land trust and  
20 agreeing to abide by its rules and regulations including payment of reasonable dues.

21 (iii) (A) Private land trusts will, in their articles of association or their bylaws, as  
22 appropriate, provide for the transfer to an organization created for the same or similar purposes  
23 the assets, lands and land rights and interests held by the land trust in the event of termination or  
24 dissolution of the land trust.

25 (B) All land trusts, public and private, will record in the public records of the appropriate  
26 towns and cities in Rhode Island all deeds, conservation easements or restrictions or other  
27 interests and rights acquired in land and will also file copies of all such documents and current  
28 copies of their articles of association, their bylaws, and annual reports with the secretary of state,  
29 and with the director of the Rhode Island department of environmental management. The director  
30 is hereby directed to establish and maintain permanently a system for keeping records of all  
31 private and public land trust land holdings in Rhode Island.

32 (29) The director will contact in writing, not less often than once every two (2) years,  
33 each public or private land trust to ascertain: that all lands held by the land trust are recorded with  
34 the director; the current status and condition of each land holding; that any funds or other assets

1 of the land trust held as endowment for specific lands have been properly audited at least once  
2 within the two (2) year period; the name of the successor organization named in the public or  
3 private land trust's bylaws or articles of association; and any other information the director deems  
4 essential to the proper and continuous protection and management of land and interests or rights  
5 in land held by the land trust. In the event that the director determines that a public or private land  
6 trust holding land or interest in land appears to have become inactive, he or she shall initiate  
7 proceedings to effect the termination of the land trust and the transfer of its lands, assets, land  
8 rights, and land interests to the successor organization named in the defaulting trust's bylaws or  
9 articles of association or to another organization created for the same or similar purposes. Should  
10 such a transfer not be possible, then the land trust, assets, and interest and rights in land will be  
11 held in trust by the state of Rhode Island and managed by the director for the purposes stated at  
12 the time of original acquisition by the trust. Any trust assets or interests other than land or rights  
13 in land accruing to the state under such circumstances will be held and managed as a separate  
14 fund for the benefit of the designated trust lands.

15 (30) Consistent with federal standards, issue and enforce such rules, regulations and  
16 orders as may be necessary to establish requirements for maintaining evidence of financial  
17 responsibility for taking corrective action and compensating third parties for bodily injury and  
18 property damage caused by sudden and non-sudden accidental releases arising from operating  
19 underground storage tanks.

20 (31) To enforce, by such means as provided by law, the standards for the quality of air,  
21 and water, and the location, design, construction and operation of all underground storage  
22 facilities used for storing petroleum products or hazardous materials; any order or notice issued  
23 by the director relating to the location, design construction, operation or maintenance of an  
24 underground storage facility used for storing petroleum products or hazardous materials shall be  
25 eligible for recordation under chapter 13 of title 34. The director shall forward the order or notice  
26 to the city or town wherein the subject facility is located, and the order or notice shall be recorded  
27 in the general index by the appropriate municipal officer in the land evidence records in the city  
28 or town wherein the subject facility is located. Any subsequent transferee of that facility shall be  
29 responsible for complying with the requirements of the order or notice. Upon satisfactory  
30 completion of the requirements of the order or notice, the director shall provide written notice of  
31 the same, which notice shall be eligible for recordation. The original written notice shall be  
32 forwarded to the city or town wherein the subject facility is located, and the notice of satisfactory  
33 completion shall be recorded in the general index by the appropriate municipal official in the land  
34 evidence records in the city or town wherein the subject facility is located. A copy of the written

1 notice shall be forwarded to the owner of the subject facility within five (5) days of a request for  
2 it, and, in any event, shall be forwarded to the owner of the subject facility within thirty (30) days  
3 after correction.

4 (32) To manage and disburse any and all funds collected pursuant to section 46-12.9-4,  
5 in accordance with section 46-12.9-5, and other provisions of the Rhode Island Underground  
6 Storage Tank Financial Responsibility Act, as amended.

7 (33) To support, facilitate and assist the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, as  
8 appropriate and/or as necessary, in order to accomplish the important public purposes of the  
9 survey in gathering and maintaining data on Rhode Island natural history, making public  
10 presentations and reports on natural history topics, ranking species and natural communities,  
11 monitoring rare species and communities, consulting on open space acquisitions and management  
12 plans, reviewing proposed federal and state actions and regulations with regard to their potential  
13 impact on natural communities, and seeking outside funding for wildlife management, land  
14 management and research.

15 (34) Two (2) years prior to issuance of a draft permit the director shall convene a meeting  
16 with the permittees to explain environmental issues, discuss data that supports the decision and  
17 establish realistic goals that focus on possible solutions. This coordinated permitting process shall  
18 include technical managers and financial representatives of the regulatory agencies and  
19 municipalities that will be affected. The director shall also present an analysis with a clearly  
20 defined goal and a scientifically valid measurable assessment of the desired outcome and benefits.

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

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LC02060  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

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1           This act would impose a moratorium for a period of five years on all department of  
2 emergency management ordered upgrades on sewage disposal systems except in the situation of  
3 an imminent health danger.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC02060  
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