

2012 -- S 2833

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO
ADOPT ENABLING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 28, 2012

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, According to the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009,
2 policymakers at the federal level are currently considering proposals designed to achieve
3 substantial reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next four decades in response
4 to urgent concerns about climate change; and

5 WHEREAS, One of the most cost effective means of achieving necessary GHG emission
6 reductions to meet climate change objectives is through investing in energy efficiency measures;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Improving energy efficiency in buildings and appliances could achieve
9 significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in a projected decrease in annual
10 energy consumption in this country of up to twenty-three percent (23%) through various energy
11 efficiency measures; and

12 WHEREAS, Investing in energy efficiency promotes energy security by reducing the
13 need to import energy from foreign sources; and

14 WHEREAS, The residential sector accounts for about thirty-five percent (35%) of energy
15 efficiency potential; and

16 WHEREAS, A significant barrier to capturing this potential is the initial capital costs
17 needed to implement energy efficiency measures; and

18 WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs authorize
19 municipalities to issue bonds to provide a potential source of up front financing for property

1 owners to make energy efficiency improvements; and

2 WHEREAS, PACE programs provide a mechanism allowing property owners to repay
3 loans for financing energy efficient measures through an annual assessment of their property tax
4 bills over a repayment period of up to twenty (20) years, with expected monthly payments that
5 are less than expected utility bill savings; and

6 WHEREAS, Analysts have predicted that there could be as much as \$1 trillion worth of
7 energy improvements to be performed nationwide, which could lead to vast job creation and
8 economic stimulus, both of which are critical to the economic recovery; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Housing Finance Agency which was created in 2008 to oversee
10 the Federal National Mortgage Association (generally referred to as “Fannie Mae”), the Federal
11 Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (generally referred to as “Freddie Mac”), and the Federal
12 Home Loan Banks, prohibited holders of mortgages through these two entities from participating
13 in PACE programs, which effectively prevented residential property owners from obtaining
14 PACE financing over concerns that a PACE tax assessment establishes a lien senior to mortgage
15 loans; and

16 WHEREAS, Both the United States House of Representatives and the United States
17 Senate have proposed legislation, the PACE Assessment Protection Act, to restore the PACE
18 financing program by ensuring that underwriting standards of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac
19 facilitate the use of PACE financing; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
21 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States pass the PACE Assessment Protection
22 Act; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit duly certified copies of this memorial to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
25 to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to the Rhode Island’s
26 Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Jack Reed, the Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, the
27 Honorable James R. Langevin, and the Honorable David N. Cicilline.

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