

2024 -- S 2841

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCACY

Introduced By: Senator Sandra Cano

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate Commerce

(Lieutenant Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-91-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-91 entitled "Small
2 Business Advocacy Council" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-91-2. Membership of council.**

4 (a) The council shall consist of twenty (20) members, ten (10) of whom shall be public
5 members, two (2) to be appointed by the governor, two (2) by the lieutenant governor, two (2) by
6 the speaker of the house, two (2) by the president of the senate, one by the secretary of state, and
7 one by the general treasurer; provided, however, that all of the public members shall be officers,
8 partners, or proprietors of Rhode Island companies that are small businesses or nonprofit
9 corporations as defined by the United States Small Business Administration; one of whom shall be
10 affiliated with a business-related department of a Rhode Island institution of higher learning, to be
11 appointed by the lieutenant governor; one of whom shall be a member of the minority party ~~member~~
12 ~~of the joint committee on small business~~, to be appointed by the speaker of the house; one of whom
13 shall be the chair of the house of representatives small business committee; one of whom shall be
14 the chair of the senate committee on commerce; one of whom shall be a member of the governor's
15 staff, to be appointed by the governor; ~~and the chairperson of the joint committee on small business,~~
16 ~~ex officio; the vice chairperson of the joint committee on small business, ex officio; the director of~~
17 ~~the Rhode Island economic development corporation,~~ and the secretary of the Rhode Island
18 commerce corporation or the ~~director's~~ secretary's permanent designee, ex officio; the director of

1 the department of labor and training, or the director's permanent designee, ex officio; the secretary
2 of state, or the secretary's permanent designee, ex officio; the general treasurer, or the treasurer's
3 permanent designee, ex officio; and the lieutenant governor, ex officio. The lieutenant governor
4 shall serve as chairperson of the council.

5 (b) One of the public members appointed by each of the appointing authorities shall be
6 appointed to serve until the first day of June, 1987, and the other to serve until the first day of June,
7 1988; and all members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. In the month
8 of May in any year in which a public member's term of office expires, the respective appointing
9 authorities shall appoint successors to the members whose terms shall expire in that year, to hold
10 office commencing on the first day of June in the year of appointment for a term of three (3) years
11 or until their respective successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy of an appointed
12 member, which may occur in the council shall be filled by appointment by the respective appointing
13 authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Ex-officio members shall serve until the end of
14 their term of office; the member of the governor's staff shall serve until the end of the governor's
15 term of office.

16 (c) The council shall meet at the call of the lieutenant governor and shall elect from among
17 themselves a vice-chairperson, who shall be one of the public members, and a secretary. The
18 council shall meet at least quarterly during each calendar year.

19 (d) The membership shall receive no compensation for their services. The council may
20 request, through the department of economic development, any clerical and technical assistance it
21 may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose.

22 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 amend the composition of the small business advisory council.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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