

2024 -- S 3149

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LC006228
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) TO
UNDERTAKE A REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, DiMario, and Euer

Date Introduced: June 07, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is the "Ocean State" with 400 miles of shoreline along the
2 Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's beautiful shorelines are enjoyed by residents and tourists
4 alike; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island relies upon these shorelines and coastal waters to support the
6 State's economy from its vibrant tourism sector to the seafood industry; and

7 WHEREAS, In order to preserve and protect the State's coastal waters, the Rhode Island
8 Coastal Resources Management Council and Department of Environmental Management work
9 prudently to ensure that the State's shorelines are maintained and properly developed; and

10 WHEREAS, The structure of these entities must be reviewed to determine if their
11 structures meet the current needs and those of the future; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests
13 that the Department of Administration (DOA) undertakes a review and analysis of the Coastal
14 Resources Management Council in order to determine:

15 • The cost-benefit analysis if the Coastal Resources Management Council became a
16 department of the State;

17 • The cost-benefit analysis if the Coastal Resources Management Council merged with
18 the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management;

19 • An analysis of the current operating structure of the Coastal Resources Management

1 Council and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to determine how the
2 Coastal Resources Management Council would operate as a department of the State and whether
3 overlaps in authority would be present between the two departments;

4 • An analysis of the organization structure, staffing, and resources required for the
5 Coastal Resources Management Council to operate as a standalone department of the State;

6 • An analysis of the organization structure, staffing, and resources required if the Coastal
7 Resources Management Council is merged with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
8 Management; and

9 • What federal approvals are required from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration (NOAA) for the Coastal Resources Management Council to become a department
11 of the State or merge with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests DOA to develop recommendations as to
14 how the State should proceed with the Coastal Resources Management Council; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests the DOA to report its findings and
16 recommendations to the Senate on or before February 1, 2025; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of
19 Administration.

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