

**2015 -- S 1020**

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LC002959  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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**S E N A T E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY  
RESOURCES TO REPORT ON STRATEGIES TO FURTHER REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS  
EMISSIONS**

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Miller, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: June 24, 2015

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, There is broad scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and is  
2 caused in large part by carbon emissions into the earth's atmosphere; and

3           WHEREAS, Climate change increases the potential impacts on our coastal areas,  
4 drinking water, energy supply, economy and health; and

5           WHEREAS, The National Ranking ("2014 Scorecard") for Energy Efficiency Policies by  
6 the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) placed Rhode Island 3rd in the  
7 nation for energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is critical in reducing energy demand, lowering  
8 costs for Rhode Island businesses and households, and putting the state on a path toward  
9 improved economic competitiveness. Efficiency also mitigates the effects of climate change;  
10 reducing fossil fuel consumption reduces carbon emissions; and

11           WHEREAS, A recent study by WalletHub, ranks Rhode Island the 8th most eco-friendly  
12 state in the country. Government data shows that our state has the lowest energy consumption per  
13 capita of any state, and that only two states have lower carbon footprints than Rhode Island. In  
14 addition, Rhode Island ranks third in environmental quality and 16th in eco-friendly behaviors  
15 placing Rhode Island 8th overall; and

16           WHEREAS, In 2014, the General Assembly established the Rhode Island Executive  
17 Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) which provides a framework for state government  
18 to adaptively plan for, manage, and mitigate climate change impacts, including identifying  
19 strategies to meet statutory targets to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

1           WHEREAS, Biodiesel fuel is a locally produced, clean-burning, renewable alternative  
2 for thermal and transportation sector fuels. Using biodiesel as vehicle fuel or home heating fuel  
3 increases energy security, improves air quality and the environment, and provides safety benefits;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's economy is served by fostering innovative practices, which  
6 strengthen Rhode Island's already strong position in advancing the efficient use of energy, further  
7 stimulating job creation, and continuing to make Rhode Island a nationally recognized leader for  
8 its clean energy economy; now, therefore be it

9           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
10 hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) to issue  
11 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Senate on creating a least cost  
12 procurement program for delivered fuels, including any suggested statutory and/or regulatory  
13 changes on or before January 31, 2016; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That this Senate further requests the Rhode Island Office of Energy  
15 Resources to issue findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly to  
16 promote the development of markets for alternative thermal and transportation fuel, including any  
17 suggested statutory and/or regulatory changes on or before January 31, 2016; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That this Senate, in order to facilitate such findings and recommendations,  
19 hereby requests the OER to establish a task force and appoint members thereto representing a  
20 balance of interests, including, but not limited to, thermal and transportation fuel sectors, and the  
21 environmental and business communities; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the  
24 State of Rhode Island, the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, and  
25 the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council – Rhode Island.

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