

2009 -- H 5849

=====  
LC02065  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

-----  
A N A C T

RELATING TO RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION

Introduced By: Representative Rene R. Menard

Date Introduced: February 26, 2009

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 23-19-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-19 entitled "Rhode  
2   Island Resource Recovery Corporation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **23-19-13. Municipal participation in state program.** -- (a) (1) Any person or  
4   municipality which intends to transfer, treat, or dispose of solid waste originating or collected  
5   within the state, or which intends to make arrangements to do so, shall utilize, exclusively, a  
6   system or facility designated by the corporation as provided under this chapter. All transfer  
7   stations in existence as of December 1, 1986 are empowered so long as they maintain the  
8   appropriate license to continue their operations, and the corporation shall not exercise its powers  
9   under this chapter to compete with their operation and activity. No municipality shall have power  
10   to engage in, grant any license, or permit for or enter into any contract for the collection,  
11   treatment, transportation, storage, or disposal of solid waste, and no municipality or any person  
12   shall engage in any activities within the state, including disposal of solid waste, which would  
13   impair the ability of the corporation to meet its contractual obligations to its bondholders and  
14   others, or which would be in competition with the purposes of the corporation as provided in this  
15   chapter. The corporation shall not be empowered to engage in the transportation, transfer, or  
16   storage of solid waste, except in temporary situations where a municipality has defaulted in its  
17   obligation under this section, or in conjunction with its activities at its disposal sites. Provided,  
18   however, that municipal contracts which were in existence on March 1, 1985, are excepted from  
19   this requirement until expiration of the original term of the contract or the expiration of any

1 extension approved by the corporation, or sooner termination of the contracts, and provided,  
2 further, that municipalities operating their own landfills on December 1, 1986 shall be free to  
3 continue to use the landfills until closure of the landfills. Without limiting the generality of the  
4 preceding, municipalities and persons are expressly empowered to contract with the corporation  
5 and/or, subject to the approval of the corporation, with a duly licensed private disposal facility for  
6 the disposal of solid wastes. The approval shall be conditioned upon a finding by the board of  
7 commissioners of the corporation that any proposed contract with a Rhode Island municipality or  
8 person is in conformity with the statewide resource recovery system development plan and this  
9 chapter, and that the proposed contract will not impair the ability of the corporation to meet its  
10 contractual obligations to its bondholders and others. The contracts may have a maximum total  
11 term, including all renewals, of up to fifty (50) years.

12 (2) The corporation shall charge fees for its solid waste management services that,  
13 together with other revenues available to the corporation, will, at a minimum, be sufficient to  
14 provide for the support of the corporation and its operations on a self-sustaining basis, including  
15 debt service on its bonds and other obligations.

16 (b) Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any  
17 other laws of this state, general, special, or local, restricting the power of any municipality to  
18 enter into long term contracts with the corporation, the provisions of this chapter shall be  
19 controlling. The corporation shall provide suitable and appropriate assistance to communities  
20 under these circumstances. Notwithstanding the preceding, if the corporation deems it desirable,  
21 it may from time to time permit municipalities to contract among themselves for the disposal of  
22 their wastes.

23 (c) Municipalities, along with private producers of waste which contract with the  
24 corporation for disposal of their wastes, shall continue to be free to make their own arrangements  
25 for collection of wastes at the source and/or the hauling of wastes to the designated processing  
26 and/or transfer stations, so long as those arrangements are in compliance with the provisions of  
27 chapter 18.9 of this title and with this chapter, and any municipal license relating thereto.

28 (d) All municipalities and state agencies which are participants in the state waste  
29 disposal program shall initiate a separation and recycling program within one year after the date  
30 on which the resource recovery facility utilized by that municipality or agency is operational and  
31 accepting waste for incineration.

32 (e) (1) The corporation and any municipality may enter into a contract or contracts  
33 providing for or relating to the disposal of solid waste originating in the municipality and the cost  
34 and expense of the disposal.

1 (2) The contract may be made with or without consideration and for a specified or  
2 unspecified time not to exceed fifty (50) years, and on any terms and conditions which may be  
3 approved by the municipality and which may be agreed to by the corporation in conformity with  
4 its contracts with the holders of any bonds or other obligations. Subject to the contracts with the  
5 holders of bonds, the municipality is authorized and directed to do and perform any and all acts or  
6 things necessary, convenient, or desirable to carry out and perform the contract and to provide for  
7 the payment or discharge of any obligation under the contract in the same manner as other  
8 obligations of the municipality.

9 (3) All municipalities that contract with the corporation for the disposal of solid waste  
10 shall prepare as an addendum to its fiscal year 2010 contract with the corporation a plan that  
11 includes a description of the process by which thirty-five percent (35%) of its solid waste will be  
12 recycled and fifty percent (50%) of its solid waste will be diverted beginning July 1, 2012. This  
13 addendum shall include a residential and municipal waste stream evaluation, a plan for the  
14 reduction of solid waste and recyclables generated and the process by which recyclable materials  
15 are to be segregated. The corporation shall have the right to execute or deny execution of the  
16 municipal solid waste and recycling services contract pending approval of the addendum. Once  
17 the corporation approves this addendum, the municipality must implement the plan and report on  
18 the results annually to the corporation. The corporation shall enforce the provisions of this section  
19 pursuant to subdivision 23-19-13(g)(3).

20 (4) The corporation shall notify every city or town that it contracts with no later than  
21 August 1, 2008 as to the addendum requirements that must be included in the fiscal year 2010  
22 contracts to recycle thirty-five percent (35%) and divert fifty percent (50%) of solid waste  
23 beginning July 1, 2012.

24 (f) The municipalities and the state have shared responsibility for the payment of the cost  
25 of municipal solid waste disposal. The state will pay its share of the cost of the solid waste  
26 disposal services to be provided by the corporation to the municipalities at its solid waste  
27 management facilities and its central landfill in the town of Johnston, and at any back-up facility  
28 which the corporation is required to provide, by providing solid waste disposal operating  
29 subsidies as provided in subsections (i) and (j).

30 (g) (1) The corporation shall charge each municipality with which it has a long-term  
31 contract for solid waste disposal services a tipping fee per ton of source separated solid waste  
32 excluding separated recyclable materials, sludge, and demolition debris delivered to any  
33 corporation facility computed in accordance with this subsection. For purposes of this chapter,  
34 "fiscal year" shall mean the twelve-month period, July 1 to June 30. ~~The municipal tipping fee~~

1 ~~shall be equal to one hundred seven and one half percent (107.5%) of the prior fiscal year's~~  
2 ~~municipal tipping fee through the end of the 2009 fiscal year.~~ One dollar and ten cents (\$1.10) per  
3 ton on all garbage, including recycled garbage, collected by the corporation as tipping fee shall be  
4 paid to the town of Johnston. In addition to any other fees the corporation shall also charge a  
5 three dollar (\$3.00) tipping fee per vehicle. Any vehicle carrying municipal solid waste shall be  
6 exempt from this three dollar (\$3.00) tipping fee. All fees collected shall be paid to the town of  
7 Johnston on a biannual basis. No tipping fee shall be charged for recyclable materials delivered to  
8 a recycling facility provided by or through the corporation.

9 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (g)(1), the municipal tipping fee may  
10 be increased, if, due to the commencement of operation of a new resource recovery facility during  
11 the previous fiscal year, the state subsidy as calculated pursuant to subsection (i), not considering  
12 landfill revenues and losses, is projected to be greater than the state subsidy projected by the  
13 corporation and the department of administration when the projections were officially accepted  
14 by the corporation on the basis of contracts entered into for the initial resource recovery facility.  
15 The amount by which the projected state subsidy exceeds the original projections will be  
16 apportioned between the state and the municipalities in the same ratio as the state subsidy for the  
17 previous year divided by the number of tons of municipal solid waste processed by the  
18 corporation bears to the municipal tipping fee for that year. The increased municipal tipping fee  
19 herein provided shall be subject to the same escalation factor as the municipal tipping fee set forth  
20 above.

21 (3) The corporation shall establish in the contract, the maximum amount of municipal  
22 solid waste that each municipality will be entitled to deliver to the corporation at the municipal  
23 tipping fee. Solid waste in excess of the contract amount will be charged to the municipality at the  
24 non-municipal rate. In determining the maximum amount of municipal solid waste which will  
25 qualify for the municipal tipping fee, the corporation shall consider the municipality's solid waste  
26 per capita average, the statewide solid waste per capita average, and any other factors that it shall  
27 deem appropriate.

28 (4) Seaweed collected and removed by a municipality shall be deemed "yard waste" for  
29 purposes of this chapter and any rules, regulations and/or plans promulgated by the corporation  
30 pursuant to this chapter, and shall be accepted by the corporation at the same rate and cost as all  
31 other municipal yard waste.

32 (h) The corporation, after the initial resource recovery facility becomes operational, shall  
33 charge each non-municipal user of its facilities a fee per ton equal to the projected annual  
34 resource recovery system cost less energy revenues and interest earnings on bond reserve funds,

1 if any, divided by the projected tons to be processed by the corporation at its resource facilities  
2 for the year. Landfill costs shall not be considered in the calculation unless landfill costs exceed  
3 revenues generated at the landfills; in those cases, excess landfill costs will be added to the  
4 system costs.

5 (i) The annual state subsidy for the cost of disposal of municipal solid waste shall be  
6 calculated for each fiscal year or portion of each fiscal year according to the following formula:  
7 The annual state subsidy shall equal the total projected annual resource recovery system costs  
8 (minus costs associated with the central landfill) for the next fiscal year less the sum of the  
9 following: (1) projected resource recovery system revenues for the year; and (2) projected landfill  
10 revenues; provided, however, that in the event that the landfill is projected to operate at a loss, the  
11 amount of the loss shall be added to the subsidy.

12 (j) (1) On or before October 1 of each year, the corporation shall submit a budget to the  
13 director of administration for the succeeding fiscal year using actual resource recovery system  
14 revenues and costs, and the audit of the preceding fiscal year prepared by the corporation's  
15 independent auditors and accepted by the auditor general. On or before December 1 of each year,  
16 the director of administration, in consultation with the corporation, shall review the budget of the  
17 corporation and shall determine and certify the annual state subsidy for the succeeding fiscal year  
18 to the governor who shall submit to the general assembly printed copies of a budget which shall  
19 include the state subsidy as previously determined in this subsection. The state subsidy  
20 appropriation shall be on a system basis but shall contain specific appropriations for each  
21 resource recovery facility. If the amount appropriated exceeds the amount needed for a specific  
22 facility, the corporation, with the approval of the director of administration, may reallocate the  
23 appropriated but unadvanced funds to other corporation facilities or costs. If the audit prepared by  
24 the corporation's independent auditors indicates that the amounts appropriated and disbursed to  
25 the corporation as a subsidy were in excess of the amounts which would have been required for  
26 the year if actual resource recovery system revenues and costs had been used in the calculation of  
27 the subsidy, the excess shall be credited against the current fiscal year's subsidy.

28 (2) At any time, if the corporation determines that the state subsidy will be insufficient to  
29 discharge the corporation's obligations for the current fiscal year, it shall request, in writing, to  
30 the director of administration for a supplemental appropriation. After review, the director of  
31 administration will recommend to the governor additional funding for the corporation, and the  
32 governor after further review, shall submit a supplemental appropriation bill request for the funds  
33 to the general assembly.

34 (3) From the appropriations made by the general assembly, the state controller is

1 authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer every month for the  
2 payment of those sums that may be required upon receipt by him or her of properly authenticated  
3 vouchers.

4 (k) If, in any fiscal year, the appropriation for the state subsidy is not made and if the  
5 corporation has insufficient other funds to discharge its obligations to holders of its bonds and  
6 notes as certified by the state auditor general, the corporation shall be empowered to charge both  
7 municipal and non-municipal users whatever fees are necessary to discharge its obligations to  
8 holders of its bonds and notes, and the municipal tipping fee set forth in subsection (g) shall not  
9 be applicable for the fiscal year.

10 (l) On or after the date established for separation of recyclable solid waste in the  
11 statewide plan for separation of recyclables by the department of environmental management,  
12 only segregated solid waste shall be accepted at the corporation's facilities.

13 (m) Costs associated with participation in the state program shall not constitute state  
14 mandated costs under section 45-13-7.

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

=====  
LC02065  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION

\*\*\*

1           This act would end the automatic increase in the municipal tipping fee equal to one  
2 hundred seven and one-half percent (107.5%) of the prior fiscal year's municipal tipping fee.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC02065  
=====