

2019 -- S 0624

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - OFFICIAL STATE
ASTRONOMER

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Seveney, Coyne, Valverde, and Euer

Date Introduced: March 14, 2019

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 100.2

4 OFFICIAL STATE ASTRONOMER

5 **42-100.2-1. Official state astronomer.**

6 There is hereby created the position of official state astronomer.

7 **42-100.2-2. Appointment.**

8 The official state astronomer shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years by the
9 secretary of state.

10 **42-100.2-3. Compensation.**

11 The official state astronomer shall receive no compensation.

12 **42-100.2-4. Qualifications.**

13 The official state astronomer must have earned, at a minimum, a Bachelor's Degree in the
14 study of astronomy and science, and have taught and lectured about astronomy to the general
15 public.

16 **42-100.2-5. Duties.**

17 The duties of the official state astronomer shall include promoting astronomy throughout
18 the State of Rhode Island; promoting engineering and technology in the classroom setting and

1 communities throughout Rhode Island; and such other duties pertaining to astronomy and science
2 as required.

3 **42-100.2-6. Certification.**

4 The secretary of state shall issue to the appointee a certificate bearing the seal of the state
5 upon which is designated the name of the appointee, the words "Official State Astronomer of
6 Rhode Island," and the term of office set forth from beginning to ending month and year of
7 service.

8 **42-100.2-7. Position of honor.**

9 The position of official state astronomer shall be honorific only, and shall not confer
10 official status upon any of the scientific findings, lectures, teachings or pronouncements of the
11 astronomer; nor shall the statements or views of the astronomer be regarded as the official
12 position of the state in any court of law.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - OFFICIAL STATE
ASTRONOMER

1 This act would create the honorary, unpaid position of the official state astronomer to be
2 appointed by the secretary of state for a term of five (5) years. The official state astronomer
3 would have the duty of promoting astronomy and the value of science throughout the state of
4 Rhode Island, and promoting engineering and technology in the classroom setting and
5 communities throughout the state of Rhode Island.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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