

2021 -- S 0795

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY
GENERAL

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: April 08, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-9-19 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-9 entitled "Department
2 of Attorney General" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-9-19. Acceptance of settlements -- Attorney General settlement restricted account.**

4 (a) The attorney general is hereby authorized and empowered to accept in the name of the
5 state any settlement resulting from a multi-state initiative. The attorney general is additionally
6 authorized and empowered to recover attorney's fees and costs that shall be considered settlement
7 proceeds for purposes of this chapter.

8 (b) The settlement proceeds shall be transferred to the general treasurer for deposit in the
9 general fund, unless otherwise ordered by the applicable court. The general treasurer shall transfer
10 ~~ten percent (10%)~~ thirty percent (30%) of such proceeds, ~~up to sixty five thousand dollars (\$65,000)~~
11 ~~in any fiscal year,~~ to the "attorney general multi-state initiative restricted-receipt account." Any
12 balance in this restricted account of more than one million five hundred thousand dollars
13 (\$1,500,000) at the end of a fiscal year shall be transferred to the state general fund. The restricted-
14 receipt account shall be used to pay for staff, operational, and litigation costs associated with multi-
15 state initiatives.

16 (c) Expenditure of all settlement proceeds accepted by the attorney general ~~as part of~~ shall
17 be subject to the terms of the relevant master settlement agreement ~~shall be subject~~ and to the annual
18 appropriation process and approval by the general assembly.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY
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1 This act would require the general treasurer to allocate thirty percent (30%) of settlement
2 proceeds resulting from any multi-state initiative accepted by the attorney general to the "attorney
3 general multi-state initiative restricted receipt account", and would require any amount left in the
4 account at the end of the fiscal year over one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000)
5 to be transferred to the state general fund.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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