



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, If enacted, H-7495 and S-2277 would establish a 2025 battery-powered leaf blower PILOT rebate and education program; and

WHEREAS, H-7495 and S-2277 aims to reduce air and noise pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers and other landscaping equipment by helping landscape professionals adopt zero-emission technology; and

WHEREAS, H-7495 and S-2277 would allocate \$300,000 to establish a pilot leaf blower rebate program managed by OER with this program, landscape professionals registered for business in Rhode Island could receive a rebate of up to \$1,500 toward the purchase of a battery-powered leaf blower and two extra batteries, by turning in a gas-powered leaf blower; and

WHEREAS, H-7495 and S-2277 would also allocate \$50,000 for OER and DEM to develop education and training for landscape professionals to learn best practices and safe operation with zero-emission landscaping equipment; and

WHEREAS, Rebate programs such as this incentivize private citizens to adopt consumption habits conducive with statewide goals for overall reductions in noise and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Including and educational and training component in this program will be essential for its success and positive reception by the various industries impacted; and

WHEREAS, The long term effects of this program will increase the quality of life for communities across the City of Providence and the State at large.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council endorses H-7495 and S-2277 and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to vote in favor of their passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to members of the Rhode Island State House of Representatives and Rhode Island State Senate and the Office of Mayor Brett Smiley.