

2023 -- H 5224

LC000184

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO SERVICES AND COORDINATION OF STATE
PROGRAMS RELATING TO OLDER ADULT RHODE ISLANDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Azzinaro, Noret, Donovan, Kazarian, Alzate,
Knight, Fogarty, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 25, 2023

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, Today, more than 240,000 Rhode Island residents are age 60 or older and by
2 2040, it is estimated that that figure will rise to almost 265,000, constituting an increase of nearly
3 75 percent over 30 years; and

4 WHEREAS, A collaborative study of Rhode Island's current services and
5 recommendations for potential initiatives that would help residents, agencies, providers, and the
6 government to better assist the growing population of older adults in our state achieve wellbeing
7 and maximum independence in ways that value, empower and engage them is essential to our
8 State's future resilience and prosperity; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
10 consisting of fourteen (14) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
11 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
12 the Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom shall be Rhode Island residents over the age of sixty-
13 five (65), to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the
14 Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH), or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the
15 Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be Directors from RI
16 Senior Center Director's Association, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom
17 shall be a Community Action Program Director from the Rhode Island Association of
18 Community Action Agencies, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be
19 the Director of the AARP Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of the RI

1 Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC), to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
2 one of whom shall be the Director of Rhode Island Healthy Aging, or designee; and one of whom
3 shall be the Director of the Senior Agenda Coalition of RI.

4 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
5 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
6 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
7 of a legislator.

8 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of key statistics
9 and information about services for older adults in Rhode Island including, but not limited to:

- 10 • Examine strengths, vulnerabilities, and demographic and financial statistics of older
11 adult Rhode Islanders;
- 12 • Assess the current State, Federal and local services currently available to older adult
13 Rhode Islanders;
- 14 • Examine any duplication of elderly services within the State;
- 15 • Provide recommendations to institute, integrate, collaborate, and implement
16 initiatives that eliminate red tape, coordinate services within agencies, and focus on
17 better delivery of services and programs related to older adult Rhode Islanders,
18 including older adult housing options and various living arrangements, health status
19 and healthcare resources;
- 20 • Provide recommendations for the creation of a portal to provide and coordinate aging
21 programs and services in the areas of employment, education, independent living,
22 accessibility and advocacy, as well as local older adult centers and services;
- 23 • Provide recommendations on mental health, transportation, food access, and
24 healthcare;
- 25 • Review and provide recommendations for the funding of services through State,
26 Federal, and private grants and provide recommendations for more efficient
27 distribution and use of these dollars; and
- 28 • Explore and provide recommendations for more regionalization of services.

29 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
30 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson from among the
31 legislators.

32 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

33 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

34 All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information,

1 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
2 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

3 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters
4 for said commission; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
6 House of Representatives no later than February 7, 2024, and said commission shall expire on
7 May 7, 2024.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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PROGRAMS RELATING TO OLDER ADULT RHODE ISLANDERS

1 This resolution would create a fourteen (14) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and provide
3 recommendations for services and the coordination of state programs for older adult Rhode
4 Islanders, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than February 7,
5 2024, and whose life would expire on May 7, 2024.

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