

2011 -- H 6265

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**REQUESTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION TO EVALUATE
THE EXISTING GOOD TIME CREDIT POLICY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Ajello, Walsh, Dickinson, and Lally

Date Introduced: June 15, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Assembly created the Criminal Justice Oversight
2 Commission as codified in Rhode Island General Laws 42-26-7; and

3 WHEREAS, The Criminal Justice Oversight Commission is comprised of the Attorney
4 General, the Superintendent of the State Police, the Director of the Department of Corrections,
5 the Chairperson of the Parole Board, the Public Defender, members of the Judiciary, a
6 representative of a victims' rights group, and other individuals who have knowledge and expertise
7 of the criminal justice system in Rhode Island; and

8 WHEREAS, The Criminal Justice Oversight Commission is authorized under law to
9 coordinate, monitor, and evaluate systematic improvements regarding the operation of the
10 criminal justice system including matters relating to the inmate population and the state's prison
11 facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has previously supported the public policy that it
13 is proper for prisoners to receive time credits towards early release for good behavior while they
14 are incarcerated because this type of credit provides a deterrent against inappropriate behavior
15 and acts as an incentive to address rehabilitative needs; and

16 WHEREAS, Recent and well-publicized events, including the potential release of
17 criminals who could pose a threat to the safety and well-being of law-abiding members of society,
18 have called into question the current procedures, policies, and practices regarding the awarding of
19 good time credits; and

1 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Rhode Island for the Criminal
2 Justice Oversight Commission to research, deliberate, and make recommendations on how to deal
3 with the awarding of good time credits on a going forward basis including, but not limited to,
4 considering a multi-tiered approach to the awarding of good time credits in order to ensure that
5 those prisoners who have committed offenses of violence, those whose crimes were egregious in
6 nature, and those who could pose a threat to society do not receive credits that would facilitate an
7 early release back into society; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
9 Providence Plantations hereby requests the Criminal Justice Oversight Commission to evaluate
10 the existing Good Time Credit Policy and make recommendations to the House of
11 Representatives on or before January 3, 2012; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Chair of the Criminal Justice Oversight
14 Commission.

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