

2014 -- H 7246

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LC003790
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE FUNDING RHODE
ISLAND'S ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC EDUCATION VIA REVENUE
GENERATED THROUGH STATE INCOME TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Valencia, Cimini, Amore, and Tomasso

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of seventeen (17) members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the House of
3 Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
4 Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two (2)
5 from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall
6 be the president of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall
7 be the president of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, or designee; one of
8 whom shall be the president of the Rhode Island Association of Administrators, or designee; one
9 of whom shall be the president of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Federation of
10 Teachers, or designee; one of whom shall be the president of the Rhode Island Chapter of the
11 National Education Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode
12 Island Independent School Association, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be members of the
13 general public, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one of whom
14 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be the commissioner of
15 Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee.

16 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
17 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
18 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
19 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which

1 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

2 The purpose of said commission shall be to study funding of the state's elementary and
3 secondary educational system based on the state's income tax system as opposed to reliance on
4 local property taxes and to make recommendations with respect thereto.

5 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
6 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and organize and shall select,
7 from among the legislators, a chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like
8 manner as the original appointment.

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

10 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
11 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
12 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

13 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
14 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
16 General Assembly no later than January 6, 2015 and said commission shall expire on March 6,
17 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special legislative commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of funding elementary
- 3 and secondary public education through state income tax, and who would report back to the
- 4 General Assembly no later than January 6, 2015 and whose life would expire on March 6, 2015.

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