

**2024 -- H 7977 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC005506/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024**

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ABILITY OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO OFFER DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAMS WITHIN THE STATE TO PROVIDE A SUPPLY AND A PIPELINE OF  
PLANNERS, PLANNING TECHNICIANS, AND PLANNING STAFF**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cruz, Morales, Speakman,  
Spears, Craven, Azzinaro, Solomon, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

1           WHEREAS, There are challenges to development in Rhode Island including the  
2 significant amount of time to obtain local permits, environmental challenges and restrictive and  
3 outdated local zoning and planning regulations and comprehensive plans; and

4           WHEREAS, At this time, it is imperative to undertake a broad based review of the ability  
5 to improve upon in-state educational opportunities, programs and certifications; now therefore be  
6 it

7           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
8 consisting of thirteen (13) members: one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Rhode Island  
9 Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of  
10 the University of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of Rhode Island  
11 College, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Community College of Rhode  
12 Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Associate Director of the State of Rhode Island  
13 Division of Statewide Planning, or designee; one of whom shall be the secretary of the Rhode  
14 Island department of housing, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the American  
15 Planning Association-Rhode Island Division, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be municipal  
16 planners, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be from a city or town  
17 with a population of less than twenty-five thousand, and one of whom shall be from a city or  
18 town with a population of twenty-five thousand or greater; one of whom shall be the Executive

1 Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall be a  
2 teacher from a career technical education "CTE" school, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
3 House; and two (2) of whom shall be members of the public, one of whom shall possess  
4 significant professional housing experience, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

5 The purpose of said commission shall be to undertake a comprehensive study and a broad  
6 review of the ability of the Rhode Island educational system to offer degrees of certificate  
7 programs within the State to provide a supply and a pipeline of planners, planning technicians and  
8 planning staff, and provide recommendations based upon this study and review, that will enable  
9 the State to ensure and promote the aforementioned educational opportunities.

10 Forthwith upon the passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet  
11 at the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
20 House of Representatives on or before April 1, 2025, and said commission shall expire on June  
21 30, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to study the ability of the Rhode Island educational system to offer  
3 degree or certificate programs within the State to provide a supply and a pipeline of planners,  
4 planning technicians, and planning staff, and who would report back to the House no later than  
5 April 1, 2025, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2025.

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