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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION KNOWN AS THE RENEWABLE
ENERGY TASK FORCE**

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Handy, M Rice, Ehrhardt, and Ferri

Date Introduced: April 08, 2010

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the people of the
2 state to adopt a state renewable energy policy which will foster the growth and development of
3 clean, renewable sources including wind, solar, hydro, biomass, geothermal, and biogas, and
4 removing barriers to and promoting opportunities for renewable energy projects, creating jobs for
5 Rhode Islanders and helping Rhode Island to become a leader in renewable energy; now,
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission known as the Rhode Island
8 Renewable Energy Task Force be and the same is hereby created consisting of thirteen (13)
9 members: two (2) of whom shall be representatives from the Rhode Island Department of Energy,
10 to be appointed by the director of the Rhode Island Department of Energy; two (2) of whom shall
11 be representatives from the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, to be appointed
12 by the director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation; one of whom shall be
13 the director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one of
14 whom shall be a representative from a city or town within Rhode Island with an existing and
15 operating renewable energy installation to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the
16 President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission,
17 or designee; one of whom shall be a representative from a Rhode Island College, University or
18 Law School, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate; one of
19 whom shall be a representative from a principal utility or gas company providing service and

1 distribution of energy in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the
2 President of the Senate; three (3) of whom shall be representatives of small businesses located in
3 Rhode Island, one of which shall be a renewable energy business, to be appointed by the Speaker
4 of the House and the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be a representative from a
5 Rhode Island based bank or financial institution to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and
6 the President of the Senate.

7 The purpose of said commission shall be to:

8 (1) Review and identify the existing governmental agencies, departments, cities and
9 towns, and municipal organizations regulating renewable energy installations, development and
10 project approvals, as well as renewable energy services, service providers, developers and
11 businesses in Rhode Island; (2) Make recommendations to consolidate and harmonize the effort,
12 authority, accountability and regulation between and among such agencies, departments, cities
13 and towns and municipal organizations; and (3) Identify and recommend the key goals for a state-
14 wide renewable energy policy to be implemented through a strategic plan by the state, which
15 plans shall include the specified agency, department, governmental branch, or office accountable
16 for the actions to be taken to implement each such goal of the policy through implementation of
17 the strategic plan.

18 For purposes of this resolution, "Rhode Island small business" means a business
19 incorporated or headquartered in Rhode Island which meets the criteria of a small business by the
20 United States Small Business Administration.

21 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
22 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and shall elect a chairperson.

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

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

25 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
26 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
27 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution, including full subpoena
28 power, which may only be exercised with the prior approval of the Speaker of the House and the
29 President of the Senate.

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

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1 RESOLVED, that the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 General Assembly no later than March 1, 2011 and said commission shall expire on June 30,
3 2011.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION KNOWN AS THE RENEWABLE
ENERGY TASK FORCE

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative commission
2 known as the Renewable Energy Task Force whose purpose it would be to identify existing
3 renewable energy installations and to recommend a statewide renewable energy policy to be
4 implemented throughout the state, and who would report back to the General Assembly no later
5 than March 1, 2011 and would expire on June 30, 2011.

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