

2024 -- H 8324

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR A BI-PARTISAN PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE
INFORMATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR A VOTE
BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS ON THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIV SECTION 2 OF THE RHODE
ISLAND CONSTITUTION

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Edwards,
Diaz, Ackerman, Hull, Kennedy, and Abney

Date Introduced: May 30, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Under the terms of Section 2 of Article XIV of Amendments and Revisions
2 to the Rhode Island Constitution the question "Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the
3 constitution?" must appear on the ballot at the general election, to be held on November 5, 2024;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XIV further provides that "Prior to a vote by the
6 qualified electors on the holding of a convention, the general assembly...shall provide for a bi-
7 partisan preparatory commission to assemble information on constitutional questions for the
8 electors..."; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That such Preparatory Commission shall consist of twelve (12) members,
10 appointed as herein provided, to serve until the submission of their final report; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three (3)
12 members of the House of Representatives; the House Minority Leader shall appoint one member
13 of the House of Representatives; the President of the Senate shall appoint three (3) members of
14 the Senate; the Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member of the Senate; and four (4) of
15 whom shall be members of the public, none of whom shall be a holder of any elective public
16 office and shall be appointed as follows, one by the Speaker of the House, one by the House
17 Minority Leader, one by the President of the Senate, and one by the Senate Minority Leader; and
18 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Preparatory Commission shall report its findings to the Governor,
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and to the public,
3 through the news media, no later than September 1, 2024. Forthwith upon the passage of this
4 resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker of the House and
5 the President of the Senate and shall organize and select from among themselves two (2) co-
6 chairpersons, one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives and one of whom
7 shall be a member of the Senate. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as
8 the original appointment. Members shall serve until submission of their final report. The
9 membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be
10 allowed their travel and necessary expenses. The commission may engage such clerical, technical
11 and other assistance as it may deem necessary to accomplish this purpose. The commission may
12 make use of such sources and means of gathering information pertinent to the fulfillment of its
13 charge as it may deem appropriate. All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such
14 advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is
15 deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution. The
16 Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and requested to provide suitable
17 quarters for said commission.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

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- 1 This resolution would provide for a twelve (12) member bi-partisan commission to
2 assemble information on constitutional questions in preparation for a vote by electors on holding
3 a constitutional convention, and who would report back by September 1, 2024.

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