

2011 -- S 0364

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PUBLIC FUNDED
ELECTION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Hodgson, Lanzi, Tassoni, Perry, and E O'Neill

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of eight (8) members: three (3) of whom shall be from the House of Representatives,
3 not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker; three (3) of
4 whom shall be from the Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be
5 appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a recognized expert on campaign
6 finance, to be appointed by the Speaker; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
7 Rhode Island Board of Elections; or his/her designee.

8 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
9 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly
10 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
11 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
12 which is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general
13 public.

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of
15 public financing of elections in Rhode Island. Topics shall include, but not be limited to,
16 reviewing and suggesting improvements to the current system for public financing for the
17 election of general officers, and creating a system of public financing of elections for the General
18 Assembly.

19 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at

1 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select from among the legislators a
2 chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original
3 appointment.

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

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

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

10 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
11 General Assembly on or before February 1, 2012, and said commission shall expire on May 1,
12 2012.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PUBLIC FUNDED
ELECTION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This resolution would create an eight (8) member special legislative commission whose
2 purpose would be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of public financing of elections in
3 Rhode Island including, but not limited to: reviewing and suggesting improvements to the current
4 system for public financing for the election of general officers, and creating a system of public
5 financing of elections for the general assembly and who would report back to the general
6 assembly no later than February 1, 2012, and whose life would expire May 1, 2012.

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