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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021**

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**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, and Cano

Date Introduced: June 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate Education

1           WHEREAS, The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care (the “Commission”)  
2 was established by a Joint Resolution in 1989 and has been meeting faithfully since that time to  
3 develop and recommend policies and legislation that will provide for quality, affordable, and  
4 accessible child care and early education services in Rhode Island; and

5           WHEREAS, Seventy-four percent of Rhode Island children under age six and seventy-  
6 seven percent of Rhode Island children ages six to seventeen have all parents in the workforce;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Since the Commission was established, research has shown that  
9 participating in high-quality early childhood programs supports children’s learning and  
10 development, can improve the trajectory of families’ lives, and can close achievement gaps that  
11 appear prior to kindergarten; now, therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That the permanent legislative commission on child care in Rhode Island  
13 created by resolution No. 217 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1989,  
14 and approved July 7, 1989, entitled "Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative  
15 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island" and as amended by resolution No. 219 passed by  
16 the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1991, and approved June 20, 1991, entitled  
17 "Joint Resolution In Amendment of The Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative  
18 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island" and as further amended by resolution No. 325  
19 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1998, and approved by the General

1 Assembly on June 27, 1998, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a  
2 Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island" and as further amended by  
3 resolution No. 346 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 2007, and  
4 approved by the General Assembly on June 13, 2007, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the  
5 Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care In Rhode Island"  
6 and as further amended by resolution No. 372 passed by the General Assembly at its January  
7 session, A.D. 2010, and approved by the General Assembly on June 25, 2010, entitled "Joint  
8 Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on  
9 Child Care in Rhode Island" be and the same is hereby amended, as follows:

10           The purpose of the Commission shall be to review, develop, and recommend policies and  
11 legislation to the General Assembly to ensure that Rhode Island has a network of child care and  
12 early education services that are high-quality, affordable, accessible, and equitable and to plan for  
13 the state's current and future needs for child care and early education services, including  
14 expansion of pre-kindergarten.

15           The Commission shall consist of twenty-nine (29) members: five (5) of whom shall be  
16 members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same  
17 political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members  
18 of the Rhode Island Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed  
19 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be from the Rhode Island Department of  
20 Human Services State Child Care Licensing Office, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;  
21 one of whom shall be from the Rhode Island Department of Human Services State Child Care  
22 Subsidy Program, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the Child  
23 Advocate of the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of  
24 the Rhode Island Department of Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive  
25 Director of Beautiful Beginnings, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of  
26 Connecting for Children and Families, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative from  
27 Business Owners of Childcare Association (BOCA), to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
28 House; one of whom shall be a representative from the State Alliance of YMCAs, to be appointed  
29 by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island Childcare  
30 Directors Association (RICCDA), to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom  
31 shall be a representative from the RI Head Start Association, to be appointed by the Senate  
32 President; one of whom shall be a representative from Family Child Care Homes of Rhode Island,  
33 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative from the  
34 SEIU 1199 Family Care Providers Union, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom

1 shall be a representative from the Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, to be appointed  
2 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of Children’s Friend,  
3 or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Parent Information  
4 Network, Inc., or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS  
5 COUNT, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director at The Economic Progress  
6 Institute, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island  
7 Association for the Education of Young Children, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director  
8 of the Institute of Early Childhood Teaching and Learning at Rhode Island College, or designee;  
9 one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC  
10 Rhode Island), or designee; and one of whom shall be the President and Chief Executive Officer  
11 of the United Way of Rhode Island, or designee.

12           The Commission may be allotted an annual budget up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000)  
13 via grant funding that will be subject to approval by the Speaker of The House and the President  
14 of the Senate to support planning activities and costs associated with a biennial planning retreat  
15 and annual Child Care and Early Education Awareness Day.

16           Membership in the Commission shall be reviewed and updated every two (2) years.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE IN RHODE ISLAND

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- 1 This resolution would amend the membership and purpose of said commission, allow for
- 2 funding with approval, and require review of said membership every two (2) years.

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