

2022 -- S 2232

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LC004276  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY RANKED CHOICE VOTING  
FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER PRIMARIES

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, DiMario, Kallman, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 08, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1           WHEREAS, Using Ranked Choice Voting has the potential to expand the range of  
2 choices available to voters by allowing them to vote for candidates of their choice without  
3 concern of giving an advantage to the candidate they least prefer and promote campaigns that are  
4 more positive and focused on issues because candidates will seek to appeal to opponents'  
5 supporters as a second choice; now therefore be it

6           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
7 consisting of seven (7) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more  
8 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of  
9 whom shall be a representative of the Board of Elections, to be appointed by the President of the  
10 Senate; one of whom shall be the Secretary of State, or designee; and two (2) of whom shall be  
11 clerks of a city or town of this state, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

12           All members of the study commission shall be registered voters of this state at the time of  
13 their selection and at all times while they remain on the commission.

14           The purpose of said commission shall be to study the potential application of ranked  
15 choice voting on primary elections for General Assembly and General Officer candidates,  
16 including, but not limited to;

- 17           • Analyzing the requirements for implementing ranked choice voting, including public  
18 education, voting equipment and technology, ballot designs, and costs;  
19           • Determining the level of public support for ranked choice voting;

- 1           • Reviewing the experience of other states in conducting elections using ranked choice  
2 voting;
- 3           • Providing recommended changes in the law to implement ranked choice voting;
- 4           • Providing recommendations on making all voting systems used in the state compatible  
5 with ranked choice voting, including a review of the availability and costs of necessary voting  
6 equipment; and
- 7           • Studying any other alternatives to single-ballot plurality voting the commission  
8 considers relevant or useful.

9           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
10 the call of the President of the Senate, who shall appoint a Chair of the commission.

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

12           A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority of its membership, and the  
13 membership of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

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

17           The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
18 suitable quarters for the commission; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
20 President of the Senate on or before February 1, 2023, and the commission shall expire on July 1,  
21 2023.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY RANKED CHOICE VOTING  
FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER PRIMARIES

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- 1           This resolution would create a seven (7) member commission to study ranked choice
- 2 voting for General Assembly and General Officer primaries, and would report back to the
- 3 President of the Senate on or before February 1, 2023, and would expire on July 1, 2023.

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