

2010 -- S 2251

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS AND THE USE OF TABLET
COMPUTERS FOR TEXTBOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Jabour, Cote, Picard, and DaPonte

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The increased use and accessibility of computers suggest that a paperless/no
2 textbook school may be a possibility in the foreseeable future; and

3 WHEREAS, It will be important to determine in what disciplines and in what ways this
4 trend should be encouraged; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as the "Special
6 Legislative Commission to Study the Use and Implementation of Electronic textbooks and the
7 Use of Tablet Computers for Textbooks in Public Schools," be and the same is hereby created
8 consisting of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of
9 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
10 Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two (2)
11 from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall
12 be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be
13 the President of the RI Association of School Superintendents, or designee; one of whom shall be
14 the President of the RI Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom shall be the
15 President of the National Education Association (RI), or designee; one of whom shall be the
16 President of the American Federation of Teachers (RI), or designee; and four (4) of whom shall
17 be citizens of Rhode Island two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and
18 two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

19 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory

1 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
2 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
3 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
4 is entitled to the appointment consent to the member of the general public.

5 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study, and develop a
6 strategy for the use and exploitation of electronic media in the classroom, and specifically to
7 explore the possible advantages and disadvantages of the “paperless classroom”, so-called.

8 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the member of the commission shall meet at
9 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson from among the
10 legislators. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original
11 appointment.

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

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
19 General Assembly no later than March 5, 2011, and said commission shall expire on May 5,
20 2011.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS AND THE USE OF TABLET
COMPUTERS FOR TEXTBOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 This resolution would create a Joint Legislative Commission whose purpose it would be
2 to study the use and implementation of electronic textbooks and the use of tablet computers for
3 textbooks in public schools, and who would report back to the General Assembly no later than
4 March 5, 2011, and whose life would expire on May 5, 2011.

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