

2018 -- S 2575

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY POTENTIAL REFORM  
OF VICIOUS DOGS HEARINGS

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Seveney, Lynch Prata, Archambault, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: March 01, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 13.1 of Title 4 of the General Laws governs the regulation of  
2 vicious dogs, including the hearings that determine a dog's status as vicious; and

3 WHEREAS, There continues to be debate among stakeholders including the Rhode  
4 Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA) regarding the form and  
5 procedure of said hearings; and

6 WHEREAS, Input from stakeholders representing the animal welfare community and  
7 city solicitors offices who participate in said hearings is vital to the meaningful reform of this  
8 process; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
10 consisting of ten (10) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, to be  
11 appointed by the President of the Senate; two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of  
12 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the President  
13 of the RISPCA, or designee; one of whom shall be a certified animal behaviorist, to be appointed  
14 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island  
15 Police Chiefs Association, or designee; one of whom shall be an Animal Control Officer, to be  
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island State  
17 Veterinarian, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Potter League  
18 for Animals, or designee.

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.

4 The purpose of said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and make  
5 recommendations regarding the regulation of vicious dogs and any administrative hearings  
6 pertaining to them.

7 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
8 the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and organize. The President  
9 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each select one member to serve as co-  
10 chairpersons of the commission.

11 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original 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 purpose 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 on or before March 1, 2019, and said commission shall expire on July 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY POTENTIAL REFORM  
OF VICIOUS DOGS HEARINGS

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1           This resolution would create a ten (10) member special legislative commission whose  
2           purpose it would be to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations regarding  
3           the regulation of vicious dogs and any administrative hearings pertaining to them, and who would  
4           report back to the General Assembly no later than March 1, 2019, and whose life would expire on  
5           July 1, 2019.

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