

2012 -- S 2609

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LC02103
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH READING DISABILITIES AND DYSLEXIA

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Goodwin, Paiva Weed, Lynch, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Education

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of seventeen (17) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not
3 more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Senate President; two (2)
4 of whom shall be parents of a child with diagnosed dyslexia, to be appointed by the Senate
5 President; one of whom shall be a licensed Rhode Island attorney, actively practicing in education
6 and/or special education law, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the
7 Chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education, or
8 designee; one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island State Literacy Team, to be
9 appointed by the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary
10 Education; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Branch of the International
11 Dyslexia Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Children's Dyslexia
12 Center of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island
13 Association of Independent Schools, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairperson for the
14 Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Council, or designee; one of whom shall be a member
15 of the Legal Services – Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to be
16 appointed by the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary
17 Education; one of whom shall be a faculty member of a Rhode Island institution of higher
18 education with teacher pre-service programs, to be appointed by the chair of the Rhode Island
19 Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education; one of whom shall be a neuro-

1 psychologist /evaluator from a Rhode Island hospital, clinic or private practice, to be appointed
2 by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a psychologist with demonstrated expertise in
3 reading acquisition and reading disabilities, to be appointed by the Senate President; and one of
4 whom shall be a developmental-behavioral pediatrician with demonstrated expertise, to be
5 appointed by the Senate President.

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

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive study of the
12 implications and consequences of dyslexia and to provide a comprehensive report with
13 recommendations to the Senate on the educational needs of children with reading disabilities and
14 dyslexia and all aspects of providing education to these children, including:

15 (1) Increasing awareness of dyslexia;

16 (2) Early assessment and identification of students with literacy challenges, including
17 dyslexia;

18 (3) A tiered continuum of intensity for research-based instructional interventions for
19 dyslexic students within the Response to Intervention model;

20 (4) Diagnosis, assessment, and progress monitoring procedures for students with reading
21 disabilities and dyslexia;

22 (5) Scientifically-validated interventions to address the needs of students with literacy
23 challenges, including dyslexia, consistent with guidelines established by the Partnership For
24 Reading, comprising the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the
25 National Institute for Literacy, and the United States Department of Education, based on findings
26 of the National Reading Panel;

27 (6) Wide-scale personnel training plans that would increase the number of Rhode Island
28 teachers who possess the Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (including
29 practicum experience for specialists);

30 (7) Consistency of compliance with federal law regarding eligibility for services available
31 for persons with specific learning disabilities; and

32 (8) Encouraging coordination and collaboration between the Department of Elementary
33 and Secondary Education, teacher preparation programs at Rhode Island institutions of higher
34 education, and relevant community and professional organizations; and

1 The commission shall additionally:

2 (1) Consider current educational policies, practices, and training with regard to literacy
3 challenges, including dyslexia;

4 (2) Review existing dyslexia-related legislation in other jurisdictions, including without
5 limitation: California, Texas, Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio, Hawaii, Washington, Virginia,
6 Alabama, and Minnesota; and

7 (3) Draft proposed legislation that furthers dyslexia awareness and implements the
8 findings of the commission to the Senate on or before January of 2013.

9 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet on
10 or before August 2012, and shall select a chairperson from among the legislators.

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 The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is requested to
14 provide administrative support for the commission, and all departments and agencies of the state
15 shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its
16 agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this
17 resolution.

18 The Senate President is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for
19 said commission; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
21 Senate no later than January 30, 2013, and said commission shall expire on January 30, 2014.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH READING DISABILITIES AND DYSLEXIA

- 1 This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special legislative study
- 2 commission whose purpose it would be to assess the educational needs of children with reading
- 3 disabilities and dyslexia, and who would report back to the Senate no later than January 30, 2013,
- 4 and whose life would expire on January 30, 2014.

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