

2010 -- S 2974

=====  
LC02861  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

---

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DEFENSE ECONOMY  
PLANNING

Introduced By: Senators Paiva-Weed, Algiere, DiPalma, Felag, and C Levesque

Date Introduced: June 04, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The defense industry is critical to the strength of the Rhode Island economy;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, The defense industry provides high-quality, good-paying jobs for residents

4 throughout the state; and

5 WHEREAS, The defense industry has an economic impact of \$1.75 billion and employs

6 over 16,000 people in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, On Aquidneck Island alone, 11,000 people, military and civilian, are

8 employed by the defense industry, with a payroll of over \$900 million; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Assembly must implement policies that will help

10 preserve our current defense economy and provide incentives for new investments; now,

11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created

13 consisting of twenty-five (25) members: six (6) of whom shall be from the House of

14 Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed by the

15 Speaker of the House; six (6) of whom shall be from the Senate, not more than four (4) from the

16 same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the

17 President of the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance, or designee; one of whom

18 shall be the Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, or designee; one

19 of whom shall be a member of a Chamber of Commerce other than the Newport Chamber of

1 Commerce, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive  
2 Director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, or designee; one of whom  
3 shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, or designee; one of  
4 whom shall be the Commanding Officer of the Rhode Island National Guard, or designee; one of  
5 whom shall be the President of the Community College of Rhode Island, or designee; one of  
6 whom shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Textron Corporation, or designee; one of whom  
7 shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Electric Boat Corporation, or designee; two (2) of  
8 whom shall be members of the public with experience in past base realignment and closure  
9 commissions, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one of whom  
10 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and two (2) of whom shall be members of the  
11 public connected to the defense industry, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
12 House and one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

13 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
14 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly  
15 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
16 of a legislator; provided, that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party  
17 which is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general  
18 public.

19 The purpose of said commission shall be to discuss issues pertaining to the state's defense  
20 economy and propose initiatives to sustain and enhance the defense economy in Rhode Island.

21 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
22 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and shall organize. The  
23 Speaker of the House shall designate one member of the House and the President of the Senate  
24 shall designate one member of the Senate to serve as co-chairpersons of the commission.  
25 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

- 1 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations
- 2 annually to the General Assembly no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

=====  
LC02861  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DEFENSE ECONOMY  
PLANNING

\*\*\*

1           This resolution would create a twenty-five (25) member permanent legislative  
2 commission whose purpose it would be to discuss issues pertaining to the state's defense  
3 economy and propose initiatives to sustain and enhance the defense economy in Rhode Island,  
4 and who would report to the General Assembly annually, no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

=====  
LC02861  
=====