

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$600,000 FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE OMBUDSMAN OFFICE TO FACILITATE AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)/504 SERVICE PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representative Lauren H. Carson

Date Introduced: May 05, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, To assist special education planning teams reach agreements, facilitated
2 Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings are often a beneficial tool, that is in the best
3 interest of the student, and helps to avoid entering into a formal dispute resolution; and

4 WHEREAS, In order to guide the process successfully, an independent State
5 Ombudsman office with a trained IEP or 504 meeting Facilitator is essential to the process when
6 an impasse has arisen or meetings are expected to be contentious; and

7 WHEREAS, A facilitator helps keep members of the team focused on the development of
8 the IEP/504, and encourages cooperation and enhanced communication, while addressing
9 conflicts and disagreements that have occurred before or that may emerge during the meeting;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Funding for an independent State Ombudsman office for a Facilitated
12 Individualized Education Program would provide for:

- 13 • A Program coordinator and scheduling assistant, to direct and manage
14 appropriation funding and Facilitator scheduling;
- 15 • IEP/504 Facilitator(s) and/or part-time Facilitator(s), based on the number of IEP
16 or 504 plans that may require facilitation, as recommended by RIDE; and
- 17 • A training program for Facilitators and members of IEP/504 teams to best utilize
18 the program; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not

1 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of six hundred thousand dollars
2 (\$600,000) for an independent State Ombudsman office to provide for a facilitated Individualized
3 Education Program; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders
4 upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time
5 to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$600,000 FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE
OMBUDSMAN OFFICE TO FACILITATE AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION
PROGRAM (IEP)/504 SERVICE PROGRAM

1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$600,000 for an
2 independent State Ombudsman office to provide for a facilitated Individualized Education
3 Program.

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