

**2025 -- S 0156**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

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**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE  
POTENTIAL NECESSITY FOR CHANGES IN THE GENERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND RECREATIONAL CANNABIS**

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Raptakis, Ciccone, Tikoian, and Britto

Date Introduced: January 31, 2025

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1           WHEREAS, Title 3 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the regulatory  
2 guidelines for the authentic, safe and reliable manufacture, distribution and retail sales of  
3 alcoholic beverages; and

4           WHEREAS, Chapter 28.11 of Title 21 of the Rhode Island General Laws legalized  
5 recreational cannabis and established similar regulatory guidelines to those established for  
6 alcoholic beverages; and

7           WHEREAS, Concerns about safety, authenticity and labor protection have been brought  
8 forward through multiple legislative proposals; and

9           WHEREAS, These concerns have raised a genuine need to update the regulatory  
10 structures for both alcoholic beverages and recreational cannabis in order to account for current  
11 and future industry conditions to provide for the best interest of all stakeholders; now, therefore  
12 be it

13           RESOLVED, That a special joint legislative commission be and the same is hereby  
14 created consisting of thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House,  
15 not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker; three (3) of  
16 whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be  
17 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Director of Business  
18 Regulation, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Liquor Operators  
19 Collaborative, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Alcoholic Beverage

1 Wholesale Dealers of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode  
2 Island Brewers Guild, or designee; one of whom shall be the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters  
3 Local 251, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of United Food and Commercial  
4 Workers Local 328, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Chair of the Cannabis Advisory  
5 Board, or designee.

6 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study  
7 commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing  
8 authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

9 The purpose of said commission shall be to evaluate and determine what changes, if any,  
10 are needed to be made in Title 3 and Chapter 28.11 of Title 21 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

11 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet and  
12 organize at the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and shall select  
13 co-chairpersons from among the legislators.

14 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and results to the General  
22 Assembly on or before January 7, 2026, and said commission shall expire on March 7, 2026.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special joint legislative commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to evaluate and determine what changes, if any, are needed to be made  
3 in Title 3 and Chapter 28.11 of Title 21 of the Rhode Island General Laws, and who would report  
4 back to the General Assembly on or before January 7, 2026, and said commission would expire  
5 on March 7, 2026.

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