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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE RETURN
OF CENTRAL FALLS SCHOOLS TO LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Introduced By: Senator Jonathon Acosta

Date Introduced: June 16, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, The City of Central Falls does not currently have operational or fiscal
2 responsibility over its public schools; and
3 WHEREAS, The City of Central Falls, through resolution of the City Council, expressed
4 unanimous support in possessing operational and fiscal responsibility over its public schools; and
5 WHEREAS, The responsibility over local concerns are best understood and addressed by
6 the elected and appointed officials of a given locality; and
7 WHEREAS, The residents of the City of Central Falls are uniquely qualified to
8 administer the public education of their children; now, therefore be it
9 RESOLVED, That a special joint legislative study commission be and the same is hereby
10 created consisting of seven (7) members: one of whom shall be the President of the Senate, or
11 designee; one of whom shall be the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or designee; one of
12 whom shall be the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the
13 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the
14 Mayor of the City of Central Falls, or designee; one of whom shall be a designee of the Rhode
15 Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, to be appointed upon an agreement
16 reached between the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the
17 Governor; and one of whom shall be the a financial leader, to be appointed upon an agreement
18 reached between the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the
19 Governor.

1 The purpose of said commission shall be to prepare a final report to include:

2 • A sustainable financial pathway and timeline for the City of Central Falls to

3 contribute their local share of foundation education aid; and

4 • A comprehensive plan for the transfer of operational and fiscal responsibility

5 from the State to the City of Central Falls, with an effective implementation date of July 1, 2026.

6 The President of the Senate shall designate the chair of the commission, and at the call of

7 the chair, shall meet not later than August 31, 2025.

8 The commission shall meet regularly and may solicit input from stakeholders, including

9 community members, educators, and financial experts, and the Department of Education and

10 Secondary Education shall provide administrative and technical support, as needed; and be it

11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the commission shall submit a final report of its findings and

13 recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the

14 President of the Senate no later than March 3, 2026, and said commission shall expire on July 1,

15 2026, unless extended further by the General Assembly; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the required reports may be submitted electronically, and must be

17 posted on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website in a publicly

18 accessible place.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE RETURN
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- 1 This resolution would create a seven (7) member joint legislative commission to study
- 2 and prepare a report on the return of Central Falls schools to local governance.

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