

2026 -- H 7678

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON CITY AND TOWN  
AFFAIRS

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, J. Brien, McEntee, Chippendale, Shallcross  
Smith, Noret, Corvese, and Speakman

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns are essential partners in the  
2 effective delivery of government services and the promotion of the health, safety, and welfare of  
3 residents; and

4           WHEREAS, A structured, ongoing forum for collaboration between the General  
5 Assembly, the Executive Branch, and municipal leaders will enhance communication, align  
6 policy objectives, and strengthen Rhode Island's overall capacity for effective public  
7 administration; now, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED, That a special joint legislative commission be and the same is hereby  
9 created consisting of nine (9) members: one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
10 House; one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; one of whom shall  
11 be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority  
12 Leader of the Senate; one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be the  
13 Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom  
14 shall be representative of a rural municipality, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one  
15 of whom shall be representative of a suburban municipality, to be appointed by the President of  
16 the Senate; and one of whom shall be representative of an urban municipality, to be appointed by  
17 the Executive Director of the League of Cities and Towns.

18           The purpose of said commission shall be to strengthen coordination between state and  
19 local government, review and recommend policies to improve municipal governance and

1 intergovernmental collaboration, identify barriers that hinder municipal operations and propose  
2 practical solutions, provide a forum for early consultation on proposed state legislation or  
3 regulations with potential municipal impact, and prepare findings and policy recommendations to  
4 enhance municipal efficiency and public service delivery.

5           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
6 the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and shall select, from among the  
7 members a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

15          RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
16 General Assembly on or before December 31, 2026, and said commission shall expire on January  
17 31, 2027.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON CITY AND TOWN  
AFFAIRS

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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member Special Joint Legislative Commission on  
2 City and Town Affairs to strengthen coordination between state and local government and would  
3 report back to the General Assembly by December 31, 2026, and would expire on January 31,  
4 2027.

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