

2026 -- H 7952

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Edwards, Donovan,
and Cruz

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care (the "Commission")
2 was established by a Joint Resolution in 1989, and has been meeting faithfully since that time to
3 develop and recommend policies and legislation that will provide for quality, affordable, and
4 accessible child care and early education services in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of Rhode Island children under age six and sixty-five
6 percent of Rhode Island children ages six to seventeen have all parents in the workforce; and

7 WHEREAS, Since the Commission was established, research has shown that
8 participating in high-quality early childhood programs supports all children's learning and
9 development, can improve the trajectory of families' lives, and can close achievement gaps that
10 appear prior to kindergarten; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode
12 Island, created by resolution No. 217 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D.
13 1989, and approved July 7, 1989, entitled "Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative
14 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island," amended by resolution No. 219 passed by the
15 General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1991, and approved June 20, 1991, entitled "Joint
16 Resolution In Amendment of The Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative
17 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island," further amended by resolution No. 325 passed by
18 the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1998, and approved by the General Assembly
19 on June 27, 1998, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent

1 Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island," as further amended by resolution No.
2 346 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 2007, and approved by the
3 General Assembly on June 13, 2007, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution
4 Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care In Rhode Island," and as further
5 amended by resolution No. 410 passed by the General Assembly on July 6, 2007, entitled "Joint
6 Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on
7 Child Care in Rhode Island" and as further amended by resolution No. 372 passed by the General
8 Assembly at its January session, A.D. 2010, and approved by the General Assembly on June 25,
9 2010, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative
10 Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island" be and the same is hereby amended, as follows:

11 The Commission shall be known as "The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child
12 Care and Early Learning".

13 The purpose of the Commission shall be to review, develop, and recommend policies and
14 legislation to the General Assembly to ensure that Rhode Island has a network of child care and
15 early learning services that are high quality, affordable, accessible to all, and equitable, and to
16 plan for the state's current and future needs for child care, and early learning services, including
17 the expansion of pre-kindergarten.

18 The Commission shall consist of twenty-seven (27) members: four (4) of whom shall be
19 members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same
20 political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members
21 of the Rhode Island Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed
22 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Assistant Director of the Office of Child
23 Care, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Head Start Collaboration Office, or
24 designee; one of whom shall be the Child Advocate of the State of Rhode Island, or designee; one
25 of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education, or designee;
26 one of whom shall be a representative from Business Owners of Childcare Association (BOCA),
27 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative from the
28 State Alliance of YMCAs, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a
29 representative from the Rhode Island Childcare Directors Association (RICCDA), to be appointed
30 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative from the RI Head Start
31 Association, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a representative from
32 the SEIU 1199 Family Care Providers Union, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of
33 whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, to be
34 appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the

1 Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Inc., or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive
2 Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive
3 Director at The Economic Progress Institute, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive
4 Director of the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, or designee; one
5 of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families,
6 or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Local Initiatives Support
7 Corporation (LISC Rhode Island), or designee; one of whom shall be the President and Chief
8 Executive Officer of the United Way of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the
9 Executive Director of the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council, or designee; one of
10 whom shall be the Executive Director of Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE), or
11 designee; and one of whom shall be an early childhood program leader in Rhode Island who has
12 expertise in early childhood through their own education and experience, focuses their work in
13 the urban core or similar community that is traditionally underserved, and whose work
14 predominantly serves historically marginalized populations, to be appointed jointly by the
15 Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Commission
16 Chairs.

17 When making appointments, consideration shall be given to increasing diversity on the
18 Commission to more closely reflect the demographics of the State of Rhode Island.

19 Membership in the Commission shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years.

20 The Commission shall be hosted by the House of Representatives in even-numbered
21 years and by the Senate in odd-numbered years.

22 The Commission shall organize and execute an annual event for Child Care and Early
23 Education Awareness Day, and a joint House and Senate planning retreat to discuss child care
24 and early education initiatives every two or three years.

25 The Commission may be allotted an annual budget up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000)
26 via grant funding, subject to approval by the Speaker of the House and the President of the
27 Senate, to support activities and costs associated with Child Care Awareness Day and the
28 planning retreat.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE IN RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This joint resolution would amend the membership of the permanent legislative
- 2 commission on child care with twenty-seven (27) members to ensure that the state has high
- 3 quality and affordable childcare and early learning services network.

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