

**2026 -- H 8032 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC005780/SUB A/2  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING FOR NEW HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Kennedy, Chippendale, McGaw, Casimiro, and  
Edwards

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island faces a housing supply shortage that impacts all residents,  
2 especially those with low and moderate incomes; and

3           WHEREAS, Safe drinking water supplies in Rhode Island are abundant but not infinite or  
4 equally available throughout the state; and

5           WHEREAS, Protecting and ensuring access to safe drinking water supplies to support  
6 existing and future needs is a public health priority; and

7           WHEREAS, New construction and impervious surface expansion can impact local public  
8 drinking water supply watersheds and the abundance and quality of drinking water for abutting  
9 communities; and

10           WHEREAS, The development of housing needs to be balanced with protecting drinking  
11 water resources; now, therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
13 consisting of nine (9) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of  
14 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the  
15 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Environmental  
16 Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island  
17 League of Cities and Towns or designee; one of whom shall be the manager of a water authority  
18 serving a municipality of fewer than twenty-five thousand in population; one of whom shall be  
19 the manager of a water authority serving a municipality of more than twenty-five thousand; one

1 of whom shall be a professional who specializes in the hydrology, environmental engineering  
2 and/or public health compliance of water systems; and one of whom shall be the executive  
3 director of Rhode Island Housing or designee.

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

7 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide  
8 recommendations for evaluating, planning for, and limiting the impacts of new housing  
9 development on the safety, quality, and capacities of public water supplies and watersheds in  
10 rural communities.

11 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
12 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

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

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

18 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters  
19 for said commission; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
21 House of Representatives on or before June 15, 2027, and said commission shall expire on July 1,  
22 2027.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING FOR NEW HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

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- 1           This resolution would create a special legislative commission to study and provide
- 2       recommendations on the water supply planning for new housing developments in rural
- 3       communities, and who would report its findings and recommendations to the House of
- 4       Representatives on or before June 15, 2027, and said commission would expire on July 1, 2027.

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