

2026 -- H 8345

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY DIGITAL PLATFORMS WITHIN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives Caldwell, Cotter, and Spears

Date Introduced: March 25, 2026

Referred To: House Education

1 WHEREAS, The presence and use of third party or outside vendor digital platform
2 technologies in public education has increased significantly within the past decade, and this
3 increase has impacted the way classes are taught, the way students learn, and the way schools are
4 administered; and

5 WHEREAS, While this increased use of these third-party digital platform technologies
6 potentially give these third-party vendors and providers great influence in the way education is
7 delivered in Rhode Island, there has been little study of the impact and changes the use of these
8 platforms might have on public education; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to study the use of third-party digital
10 platforms in public education is hereby created consisting of eleven (11) members:

11 Three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than two
12 (2) from the same political party, of whom two (2) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
13 House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader; one of whom shall be the
14 president of the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, or designee; one of whom
15 shall be the president of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, or designee; one of
16 whom shall be the executive director of the Rhode Island Association of School Business
17 Officials, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be public school teachers, one currently teaching in
18 a municipality with a population of greater than eighty thousand (80,000) persons and one
19 currently teaching in a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand (80,000)

1 persons, to be selected by the Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom shall be currently enrolled
2 public school students, one from a municipality with a population of greater than eighty thousand
3 (80,000) persons and one from a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand
4 (80,000) persons, to be selected by the Speaker of the House; and one of whom shall be the
5 president of the Rhode Island school counselor association, 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, provided that
9 the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which is entitled to the
10 appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to undertake a comprehensive study of the use
12 and impact of third-party digital platforms in Rhode Island public education including, but not
13 limited to, the use of these platforms, and they ways that these platforms could be used more
14 effectively, as well as potential harms from the use of these platforms and ways to mitigate those
15 harms. The study commission shall consult with other individuals who have relevant expertise as
16 needed.

17 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
18 the call of the Speaker of the House and shall select, from among the legislators, a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
27 Education Committee of the House of Representatives no later than April 23, 2027, and said
28 commission shall expire on May 28, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE USE OF THIRD-
PARTY DIGITAL PLATFORMS WITHIN PUBLIC EDUCATION

1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative commission to
2 study the use of third-party digital platforms in public education and would report its findings and
3 recommendations to the education committee of the House of Representatives no later than April
4 23, 2027, and said commission would expire on May 28, 2027.

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