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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUVENILE HEARING BOARDS**

Introduced By: Senators Vargas, LaMountain, Quezada, Bell, DiMario, Urso, Mack,
Acosta, Bissaillon, and Euer

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and same is hereby created
2 consisting of at least seventeen (17) but no more than nineteen (19) members: one of whom shall
3 be the Chief Judge of the Family Court, or designee; one of whom shall be the director of the
4 Department of Children, Youth & Families, or designee; one of whom shall be the Attorney
5 General, or designee; one of whom shall be the Public Defender, or designee; four (4) of whom
6 shall be members of the Senate, with at least one member of the minority party, to be appointed
7 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island
8 Police Chiefs Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the Child Advocate, or designee;
9 one of whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode Island Kids Count, or designee; one of
10 whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode Island Community Justice, or designee; one of
11 whom shall be the Executive Director of the League of Cities and Towns, or designee; no less
12 than three (3), but up to five (5) current members of a Juvenile Hearing Board, preferably from
13 the cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Cranston, or Providence to be appointed by the President of
14 the Senate; and one of whom shall be a representative from SEIU Local #580 to be appointed by
15 the president of SEIU Local #580.

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to study current practices of state and municipal
17 Juvenile Hearing Boards established pursuant to §§ 8-10-23.1 or 8-10-23.2, to identify best
18 practices, evaluate statewide coordination and board member training opportunities, examine
19 appropriate methods of data collection and reporting standards, and provide recommendations to

1 the Senate for revisions to state law.

2 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
3 the call of the President of the Senate, and shall commence in October 2026, organize, and select
4 one member to serve as chairperson of the commission.

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

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

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

10 The President of the Senate is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters
11 for said commission; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
13 Senate on or before November 30, 2027, and shall expire on December 31, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUVENILE HEARING BOARDS

1 This resolution would create a nineteen (19) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to study current practices of state and municipal Juvenile
3 Hearing Boards established pursuant to §§ 8-10-23.1 or 8-10-23.2, and who would report back to
4 the Senate by November 30, 2027, and would expire on December 31, 2027.

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