

2021 -- H 5950

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LC001761
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE AREA
OF LAND USE, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND
REGULATION

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 26, 2021

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is the smallest state in terms of its geographical surface land
2 area, which makes this surface land area an important and critical resource; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important for Rhode Island to address issues of land use, preservation,
4 development, and regulation in a way that properly manages the use of this important resource to
5 insure and promote land use which allows for both growth and sustainability; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island, like most of the nation, is facing a shortage of affordable
7 housing; and land use regulations, particularly zoning ordinances, have a major impact on the
8 availability of affordable housing; and

9 WHEREAS, The implications of global warming and climate change on land use
10 planning are becoming more consequential to our state each year; and

11 WHEREAS, At this time, it is imperative for the House to undertake a broad based
12 review of comprehensive land use in this state; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
14 consisting of eighteen (18) members: one of whom shall be the Director of Environmental
15 Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of Business Regulation, or
16 designee; one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island Housing Board of Commissioners,
17 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be employed with the Division
18 of Statewide Planning, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a
19 representative of the real estate industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of

1 whom shall be a representative of an environmental group, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
2 House; one of whom shall be a municipal planner, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3 one of whom shall be an attorney with land use expertise, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
4 House; one of whom shall be a representative of the agricultural industry, to be appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House; six (6) of whom shall be members of the public, who, whenever possible,
6 shall be competent by training or experience in the fields of solar energy, offshore wind power,
7 civil engineering, land surveying, commerce, or who are representatives from Save the Bay, the
8 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, or
9 Grow Smart Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a
10 representative of the building trades industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of
11 whom shall be a representative from a city zoning board, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House; and one of whom shall be an individual whose professional experience enables them to
13 understand and address issues related to the accessibility and equity of land use regulations and
14 procedures for vulnerable and/or historically disenfranchised populations, to be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House.

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to undertake a comprehensive study and a broad
17 based review of the entire areas of land use, preservation, production, development, housing,
18 environment, and regulation, in the state, and provide recommendations based upon this study
19 and review, that will enable the state to ensure and promote land use which allows for sustainable
20 and equitable economic growth.

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

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
31 House of Representatives on or before April 30, 2022, and said commission shall expire on June
32 30, 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE AREA
OF LAND USE, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND
REGULATION

1 This resolution creates a special legislative commission to study the entire areas of land
2 use, preservation, production, development, housing, environment, and regulation, and would
3 report back to the House of Representatives on or before April 30, 2022, and would expire on
4 June 30, 2022.

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