

**2022 -- H 7562 SUBSTITUTE A**

=====  
LC004865/SUB A/2  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022**

---

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY PROSPECTIVE  
IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENTS' ACCESSIBILITY TO MEDICAL CARE FROM  
LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS**

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, Phillips, Price, Barros, Solomon, and Cassar

Date Introduced: February 18, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, Naturopathic medicine is used for a wide range of health issues and practice  
2 in settings ranging from private clinics to integrative medical centers, urgent care clinics and  
3 hospitals; and

4           WHEREAS, Naturopathic physicians are trained as primary care providers who diagnose,  
5 treat and manage patients with acute and chronic conditions; and

6           WHEREAS, Naturopathic medicine utilizes diverse techniques which includes modern  
7 and traditional, scientific and empirical methods, addressing disease and dysfunction at the level  
8 of body, mind and spirit; and

9           WHEREAS, Naturopathic physicians are often successful at treating chronic conditions  
10 that don't respond to conventional medicine; now, therefore be it

11           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
12 consisting of thirteen (13) members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island  
13 House of Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed  
14 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Health Insurance  
15 Commissioner, or designee; one of whom shall be the Managing Director of Blue Cross Blue  
16 Shield of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Officer of United  
17 Healthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of  
18 the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians, or designee; one of whom shall be a  
19 Naturopathic Physician practicing in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

1 one of whom shall be the Chairperson of the Lifespan board of directors, or designee; one of  
2 whom shall be the Director of the Department of Health (RIDOH), or designee; and one of whom  
3 shall be the President and CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, 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 a prospective pathway to making patients' treatment accessibility with  
9 naturopathic physicians more affordable through inclusion in HMO networks.

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

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 no later than April 20, 2023, and said commission shall expire on July  
22 20, 2023.

=====  
LC004865/SUB A/2  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY PROSPECTIVE  
IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENTS' ACCESSIBILITY TO MEDICAL CARE FROM  
LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

\*\*\*

1           This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of prospective improvements in  
3 patients accessibility to medical care from licensed naturopathic physicians, and who would  
4 report back to the House of Representatives no later than April 20, 2023, and whose life would  
5 expire on July 20, 2023.

=====  
LC004865/SUB A/2  
=====