

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE
"ELECTED AND APPOINTED MINORITY OFFICIALS COMMISSION"

Introduced By: Representative Anastasia P. Williams

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House Special Legislation

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission is hereby created consisting of
2 thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, to
3 be appointed by the Speaker of the House; nine (9) of whom shall be distinguished members of
4 the minority community, three (3) of whom shall be selected by each of the appointed House
5 members; and one of whom shall be the Secretary of State, or designee.

6 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
7 commission, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
8 of a legislator.

9 The purpose of said commission shall be to establish a permanent record of state and
10 municipal elected and appointed minority officials holding executive, legislative or judicial
11 office, from the founding of this state's original settlement by Roger Williams in 1636 to the
12 present. The records shall state the name, position and period of elected or appointed service of
13 each minority official.

14 The list of minority officials shall include persons who are:

15 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);

16 (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or
17 other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);

18 (3) Portuguese (a person of Portuguese, Brazilian, or other Portuguese culture or origin,
19 regardless of race);

1 (4) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far
2 East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands);

3 (5) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original
4 peoples of North America; and

5 (6) Members of other groups or individuals found to be economically and socially
6 disadvantaged.

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

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

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

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts,
19 donations, grants or bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this commission; and
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
22 House of Representatives, the Secretary of State and the State Archivist no later than February 7,
23 2024, and said commission shall expire on May 7, 2024; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State is respectfully requested to publish on its
25 official website all information provided by the commission.

=====
LC004752
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE
"ELECTED AND APPOINTED MINORITY OFFICIALS COMMISSION"

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study commission
2 to be known as the "Elected And Appointed Minority Officials Commission" whose purpose it
3 would be to establish a permanent record of state and municipal elected and appointed minority
4 officials, and who would report back to the House of Representatives, the Secretary of State, and
5 the State Archivist no later than February 7, 2024, and would expire on May 7, 2024.

=====
LC004752
=====