

2013 -- S 0054

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DIVERSION OF
FOOD WASTE FROM THE CENTRAL LANDFILL**

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Crowley, DiPalma, Felag, and Gallo

Date Introduced: January 16, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of nine (9) members: three (3) of whom shall be representatives from the Senate, not
3 more than two (2) of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the Senate
4 President; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
5 Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
6 Health or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the recycling program from the Rhode
7 Island Resource Recovery Corporation, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative of
8 environmental interests to be appointed by the Senate President; and two (2) of whom shall be
9 representatives of businesses that generate food waste, to be appointed by the Senate President.

10 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
11 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
12 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
13 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
14 is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general public.

15 According to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency 2010 Municipal Solid Waste
16 Characterization Report, more food waste is sent to landfills and incinerators than any other
17 single material in municipal solid waste. In 2010, in excess of 34 million tons of food waste was
18 generated, with only three percent diverted from landfills and incinerators for composting.

19 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the

1 opportunity to preserve long-term landfill capacity for Rhode Island municipalities through the
2 diversion of food waste from the Central landfill.

3 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
4 the call of Senate President who shall select a chairperson from among the Senators.

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 Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
11 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
13 Senate President no later than March 7, 2013, and said commission shall expire on June 6, 2013.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DIVERSION OF
FOOD WASTE FROM THE CENTRAL LANDFILL

1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative commission whose
2 purpose would be to make a comprehensive study of the opportunity to preserve long-term
3 landfill capacity for Rhode Island municipalities through the diversion of food waste from the
4 Central landfill, and who would report back to the Senate President no later than March 7, 2013,
5 and whose life would expire June 6, 2013.

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