

2017 -- H 5421

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LC001031
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLEMENTATION OF A
FOOD RECOVERY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Winfield, Fogarty, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 08, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, Local food pantries have become critically important to households and
2 families that literally live hand to mouth, and with difficult economic times, donations and
3 contributions cannot keep up with need; and

4 WHEREAS, Feeding America's 2014 statistics indicate that 48.1 million Americans,
5 including 15.3 million children, 5.4 million seniors, and 27.4 million additional adults live in food
6 insecure households. In Rhode Island, twelve percent (12%) of the state's households are food
7 insecure, and four and seven-tenths percent (4.7%) of Rhode Island households experience severe
8 food insecurity (hunger); and

9 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Community Food Bank serves 60,000 Rhode Islanders
10 each month, and one out of three of those served is a child under the age of 18. Statewide, the
11 Rhode Island food distribution system disseminated 9.4 million pounds of food to families last
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, According to Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) Solid
14 Waste Characterization Study, forty-six percent (46%) of the waste produced by grocery stores
15 was from food and 48 percent of the waste produced from restaurants is food; and

16 WHEREAS, The Johnston Landfill handles most of the 1.5 million tons of waste the state
17 generates annually, and while the site is not forecast to fill up for another 25 years, if the trash
18 stream is cut down, it could last many more years; and

19 WHEREAS, These food waste products, from both grocery stores and restaurants, are

1 directly impacting our already overburdened landfills and have a great potential for reduction
2 through donation programs; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Resource Defense Council reports that forty percent (40%) of
4 the food in the United States is lost somewhere from farm to landfill, with food being the number
5 one component in our nation's landfills and one-third of all food produced for humans going to
6 waste; and

7 WHEREAS, Section 21-34-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws protects donors from
8 liability and yet, according to We Share Hope, one in seven Rhode Islanders are still food
9 insecure. The commitment by local grocery stores, restaurants and other food producing entities
10 to donating nutritious, leftover food to feed hungry people, not landfills, will be a positive step in
11 solving our states hunger pains; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
13 consisting of thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
14 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
15 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
16 Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger
17 Free America, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of Acquisition and Distribution for
18 the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the
19 Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of a Rhode
20 Island Chamber of Commerce Association, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of
21 whom shall be the Dean of Culinary Education in the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson &
22 Wales University, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Rhode Island Food Policy
23 Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Rhode Island Hospitality
24 Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Inter-Agency Food & Nutrition
25 Policy Advisory Council, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island
26 Resource Recovery Corporation, or designee.

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

32 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study, and provide
33 recommendations for the steps necessary to remove barriers, and provide incentives to implement
34 and increase food recovery and donations in Rhode Island.

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

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

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

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

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

11 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
12 House of Representatives no later than March 7, 2018, and said commission shall expire on June
13 7, 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLEMENTATION OF A
FOOD RECOVERY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and develop recommendations to
3 remove barriers and implement incentives to increase food recovery and donations in the State of
4 Rhode Island, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than March 7,
5 2018, and whose life would expire on June 7, 2018.

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