

2022 -- H 8376

=====  
LC006186  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF PFAS IN FIREFIGHTER GEAR

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Cortvriend, Carson, Blazejewski, Casimiro,  
Solomon, Donovan, Casey, Hawkins, and Bennett

Date Introduced: June 24, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Chemicals known as PFAS, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are used to  
2 make firefighter gear resistant to flames, water and oil, and have been associated with potential  
3 adverse health effects; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
5 consisting of nine (9) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House of  
6 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of  
7 the Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director  
8 of the Department of Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Emergency  
9 Management Agency, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Executive Board of  
10 the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of  
11 the Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
12 Director of the League of Cities and Towns, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Chief of  
13 the Civil Division, Office of the Attorney General, or designee.

14           In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study  
15 commission created by this General Assembly resolution, the Speaker shall appoint a member of  
16 the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

17           The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide  
18 recommendations on the issue of PFAS in firefighter gear including:

- 19           • Researching the development of alternatives to this gear;

- 1           • Recommending a timeline for replacing gear statewide; and  
2           • Recommending a potential strategy for funding the replacement gear from state or  
3           federal funds.

4           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet  
5 after October 1, 2022, at the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and the Speaker shall  
6 select a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

14           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
15 House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2024, and said commission shall expire on  
16 March 1, 2024.

=====  
LC006186  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF PFAS IN FIREFIGHTER GEAR

\*\*\*

- 1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations on the issue of PFAS in
- 3 firefighter gear, and who would report back to the House no later than January 1, 2024, and
- 4 whose life would expire on March 1, 2024.

=====  
LC006186  
=====