

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

JOINT RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING THE MISSION OF THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AND THE CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Coogan, and Slater

Date Introduced: March 05, 2003

Referred To: House Finance

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of seventeen (17) members: two (2) of whom shall be from the House of
3 Representatives, not more than one (1) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
4 Speaker; two (2) of whom shall be from the Senate, not more than one (1) from the same political
5 party, to be appointed by the Senate President; one (1) of whom shall be a member of the House
6 Finance Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker; one (1) of whom shall be a member of the
7 Senate Finance Committee to be appointed by the Senate President; two (2) of whom shall be
8 representatives of the general public, one (1) to be appointed by the Speaker, and one (1) to be
9 appointed by the Senate President; one (1) of whom shall be the Lt. Governor; one (1) of whom
10 shall be the General Manager of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority or designee; one (1) of
11 whom shall be a representative from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, to be appointed
12 by the Governor; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from the Statewide Planning
13 Department, to be appointed by the Governor; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from the
14 Rhode Island Department of Transportation, to be appointed by the Governor; one (1) of whom
15 shall be a representative from the Governor's Policy Office, to be appointed by the Governor; one
16 (1) of whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, to be
17 appointed by the Governor; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from the Providence
18 Foundation, to be appointed by the Governor; and one (1) of whom shall be a representative from

1 the Providence Chamber of Commerce, to be appointed by the Governor.

2 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
3 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly
4 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
5 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
6 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

7 The purpose of said commission shall be to prepare objective written findings addressing
8 the present and future public transportation needs of the state of Rhode Island, which shall
9 include, but not be limited to, a review of the following issues:

10 (a) What are the geographic areas that should be served by public transportation and the
11 appropriate levels of service in such areas to be provided by RIPTA?

12 (b) What are the direct and indirect costs associated with the maintenance of a public
13 transportation system that best serves the needs of the state of Rhode Island?

14 (c) What are the available funding sources (both capital and operational) to maintain the
15 optimal public transportation system in the state of Rhode Island?

16 (d) What are the financial parameters and guidelines for the appropriate sharing of transit
17 system costs among its funding agencies and users?

18 (e) What is the appropriate level of cost recovery for Rhode Island's public transportation
19 system?

20 (f) What is the role and structure of rail transportation in Rhode Island's public
21 transportation system and how can rail transportation be best integrated into other modes of
22 transportation?

23 Given the immediacy of the state's transit system funding crisis, the commission should
24 pursue an aggressive and prompt timetable for the formulation of its recommendations and plan
25 of implementation.

26 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
27 the call of the Speaker and organize and the Lt. Governor shall be chairperson. Vacancies in said
28 commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 General Assembly on or before February 12, 2004, and said commission shall expire on April 12,
3 2004.

=====
LC02558
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING THE MISSION OF THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AND THE CHALLENGES FACING PUBIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make recommendations regarding the mission of the Rhode Island
3 Public Transit Authority and the challenges facing public transportation in the state of Rhode
4 Island; and who would report back to the General Assembly no later than February 12, 2004 and
5 whose life would expire on April 12, 2004.

=====
LC02558
=====

