

2012 -- H 7985

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING THE SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE  
HUMANITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Martin, Jackson, Reilly, and E Coderre

Date Introduced: March 22, 2012

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, In 1965, Senator Claiborne Pell sponsored legislation creating the National  
2 Endowment for the Humanities; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Pell believed that promoting the humanities was “significant to our  
4 nation’s cultural advancement and to the full growth of a truly great society”; and

5 WHEREAS, Article XII of the Rhode Island Constitution underscores the importance of  
6 “the diffusion of knowledge, as well as of virtue among the people being essential to the  
7 preservation of their rights and liberties”; and

8 WHEREAS, The humanities are an integral part of Rhode Island’s economy, culture, and  
9 public life; and

10 WHEREAS, It is the priority of the general assembly, in keeping with Senator Pell’s  
11 vision, to inspire intellectual curiosity and imagination and ignite the diffusion of knowledge in  
12 all Rhode Islanders by promoting the public understanding of the tradition of thought and  
13 accomplishment that is the humanities; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as “The Senator  
15 Claiborne Pell Legislative Commission on the Humanities” be and the same is hereby created  
16 consisting of twelve (12) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the house of  
17 representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the  
18 speaker of the house; three (3) of whom shall be members of the senate, not more than two (2)  
19 from the same political party, to be appointed by the president of the senate; and six (6) of whom

1 shall be citizens of Rhode Island, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the  
2 house, and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate.

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

8 The purpose of said commission shall be to examine the state of the humanities in Rhode  
9 Island, develop strategies that foster a greater appreciation of the humanities by our state's  
10 citizenry, and promote the incorporation of the humanities curricula in public and private  
11 institutions of learning.

12 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
13 the call of the speaker of the house and the president of the senate and organize and shall select a  
14 chairperson from among the legislators. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like  
15 manner as the original appointment.

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

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

20 The Rhode Island council on the humanities will provide staffing and support to the  
21 commission; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the commission shall annually report its findings and  
23 recommendations to the general assembly.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING THE SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE  
HUMANITIES

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- 1           This resolution would create a twelve (12) member special legislative commission whose
- 2   purpose it would be to examine the state of the humanities in Rhode Island, and who would report
- 3   back annually to the general assembly.

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