

**2013 -- H 5099 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC00367/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND  
CREATE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representative Peter G. Palumbo

Date Introduced: January 16, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1           RESOLVED, That a special joint commission be and the same is hereby created  
2 consisting of twenty-three (23) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of  
3 Representatives, not more than one of whom shall be from the same political party, to be  
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not  
5 more than one of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of  
6 the Senate; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and  
7 Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of  
8 Human Services, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Health, or  
9 designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families,  
10 or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare,  
11 Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive  
12 Director of The Autism Project of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President  
13 of the National Autism Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode  
14 Island Chapter-Autism Society of America; one of whom shall be a diagnostician, to be appointed  
15 by the Speaker; one of whom shall be a researcher, to be appointed by the Senate President; one  
16 of whom shall be the Director of Clinical and Educational Services from Pathways Strategic  
17 Teaching Center, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Association of Rhode  
18 Island Administrators of Special Education, or designee; one of whom shall be a Special  
19 Education Director from Rhode Island College, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one

1 of whom shall be the Director of Development Pediatrics from Rhode Island Hospital, or  
2 designee; one of whom shall be from the Department of Special Education at Salve Regina  
3 University, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Executive  
4 Director of The Groden Center, or designee; one of whom shall a representative from the Paul V.  
5 Sherlock Center on Disabilities; and two (2) of whom shall be parents of an individual with  
6 Autism, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker, and one of whom shall be appointed by  
7 the Senate President.

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

13 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study to improve the  
14 quality of life and create positive outcomes for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and  
15 their families in the state of Rhode Island.

16 Upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at the call of  
17 the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and organize and shall select, from among  
18 the legislators, a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
27 General Assembly no later than January 28, 2014, and said commission shall expire on June 13,  
28 2014.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This resolution would create a twenty-three (23) member special joint commission whose  
2           purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study to improve the quality of life and create  
3           positive outcomes for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families in the State of  
4           Rhode Island and who would report back to the General Assembly no later than January 28, 2014,  
5           and said commission would expire on June 13, 2014.

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