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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL EDUCATION
HEARINGS AT THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Introduced By: Representatives MacBeth, McLaughlin, McNamara, and Marshall

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 RESOLVED, That a special house commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of twelve (12) members: six (6) members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives from among the members of the House of Representatives, not more
4 than five (5) of whom shall be from the same political party; one of whom shall be a State
5 certified special education teacher, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom
6 shall be a State certified administrator of special education, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
7 House; one of whom shall be a parent of a student who is receiving special education services, to
8 be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
9 Rhode Island Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom shall be the President
10 of the Rhode Island Superintendents Association, or designee; and one of whom shall be the
11 President of the Rhode Island Principals Association, or designee.

12 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
13 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly
14 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
15 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
16 which is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general
17 public.

18 The purpose of the commission shall be to study all education hearings at the Rhode
19 Island department of elementary and secondary education, including commissioner hearings and

1 special education due process hearings, and to make recommendations on improving these
2 systems. More specifically, the focus of the commission shall be to insure that the hearing process
3 balances the rights and needs of the individuals involved, especially students with disabilities,
4 while also maintaining educational and academic integrity, discipline, and authority.

5 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
6 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select from among the legislators a
7 chairperson and vice-chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as
8 the original appointment.

9 The membership of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
16 Speaker of the House on or before January 23, 2014, and the commission shall expire on March
17 25, 2014.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL EDUCATION
HEARINGS AT THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

- 1 This resolution would create a twelve (12) member special legislative commission whose
2 purpose would be to study all education hearings at the Rhode Island department of elementary
3 and secondary education and who would report back to the General Assembly no later than
4 January 23, 2014, and whose life would expire March 25, 2014.

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