

2013 -- S 0834

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF  
PRIMARY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Sosnowski, Cool Rumsey, Sheehan, and Goldin

Date Introduced: April 04, 2013

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, It is the intention of the Rhode Island Senate to achieve the goals of  
2 integrating primary and behavioral health across the entire system to achieve high quality  
3 healthcare at an affordable cost; and

4           WHEREAS, With the advent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), there are enormous  
5 opportunities to fully examine and evaluate our current healthcare delivery system; and

6           WHEREAS, According to the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare,  
7 individuals with serious mental illness are dying twenty-five years earlier than the rest of the  
8 population, largely due to unmanaged physical health conditions; and

9           WHEREAS, The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
10 (SAMHSA) and the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA) established the Center  
11 for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) to promote the development of integrated primary and  
12 behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and  
13 substance abuse conditions; and

14           WHEREAS, A fragmented system leads to gaps in healthcare delivery, inefficiencies in  
15 identifying and accessing support services, and decreased health outcomes for patients; and

16           WHEREAS, There is a need and an opportunity to incrementally adjust the Rhode Island  
17 healthcare system in the creation of linkages and alignment across many sectors toward  
18 population health improvement; and

19           WHEREAS, This Senate recognizes the need to convene and examine long-term

1 strategies toward achieving a high quality, integrated primary and behavioral health system for all  
2 Rhode Islanders; now, therefore be it

3         RESOLVED, That a special Senate commission be and the same is hereby created  
4 consisting of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more  
5 than two (2) of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the Senate  
6 President; one of whom shall be the Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental  
7 Disabilities, and Hospitals, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the Secretary of the  
8 Executive Office of Health and Human Services, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the  
9 Director of the Department of Health, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the Director of  
10 Medicaid, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of  
11 Children, Youth, and Families, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of  
12 the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, or his or her designee; one of whom shall be a  
13 licensed physician practicing primary care in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Senate  
14 President; one of whom shall be a healthcare practitioner from a Rhode Island-based Patient  
15 Centered Medical Home (PCMH) primary care practice, to be appointed by the Senate President;  
16 one of whom shall be a representative of a Rhode Island behavioral healthcare provider and three  
17 (3) of whom shall be representatives of community-based providers, one of whom shall be a  
18 representative of the Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, to be appointed by the  
19 Senate President, one of whom shall be a representative of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment  
20 Association of Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Senate President, and one of whom shall be a  
21 representative of the Rhode Island Health Center Association to be appointed by the Senate  
22 President.

23         In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
24 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
25 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
26 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or Minority Leader of the political party which  
27 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

28         The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of  
29 integrating behavioral health and primary health in Rhode Island. In studying this issue the  
30 commission is encouraged to:

31         (1) Examine trends, current policies, and data pertaining to the Rhode Island behavioral  
32 health utilization and primary care trend data;

33         (2) Identify policy restrictions which currently prevent Rhode Island from integrating  
34 primary and behavioral care;

1           (3) Provide a forum for state agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based  
2 organizations, volunteer organizations, advocacy groups, and businesses to discuss challenges  
3 and solutions pertaining to the integration of primary and behavioral care;

4           (4) Examine current models that are being used by other states to develop solutions;

5           (5) Identify and seek ways to remedy gaps in alternatives, specifically in the area of  
6 examining linkages and connections among agencies and providers;

7           (6) Examine the role of multi payers within the market and potential innovative payment  
8 reforms.

9           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
10 the call of the Senate President and organize and shall select from among the legislators a  
11 chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original  
12 appointment.

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

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

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

19           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
20 Senate no later than January 30, 2014, and said commission shall expire on June 26, 2016.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF  
PRIMARY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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1           This resolution would create a fifteen (15) member special legislative commission whose  
2           purpose would be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of integrating behavioral health  
3           and primary health in Rhode Island, and who would report back to the General Assembly no later  
4           than January 30, 2014, and whose life would expire June 26, 2016.

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