

2014 -- H 8364

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY MINIMUM WAGE
DISCREPANCIES IN THE HOSPITALITY, HOTEL, AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRIES**

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Cimini, Ajello, Diaz, and Abney

Date Introduced: June 19, 2014

Referred To: House Labor

1 WHEREAS, Segments of the hospitality, hotel, and restaurant industries' workforce earn
2 some of our nation's lowest-wages, and have little access to benefits or the possibility of career
3 advancement; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal and state subminimum wage for tipped workers is \$2.13, and
5 has remained at that amount since 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, While the dollar differential between the subminimum wage and minimum
7 wage is supposed to be achieved through the receipt of tips paid to the workers, this is often not
8 the case, leaving workers, who are mostly women, existing in poverty; and

9 WHEREAS, By raising the state's minimum wage from the current \$8 to \$9 in January of
10 2015, Rhode Island has recognized that this increase will vastly improve the lives of minimum-
11 wage earners and their families, and boost the state's economy as a whole; and

12 WHEREAS, It is essential that all Rhode Islanders are ensured a competitive minimum
13 wage; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
15 consisting of eight (8) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House
16 of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the
17 Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, or designee; one of whom shall
18 be the President of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, or designee; one of whom shall be the President
19 of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, or designee; one of whom shall be a tipped food

1 service worker in a Rhode Island restaurant, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one
2 of whom shall be a member of a Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, to be appointed by the
3 Speaker of the House.

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

9 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of minimum
10 wage discrepancies in Rhode Island's hospitality, hotel, and restaurant industries and make
11 recommendations for legislation and/or regulations and/or enforcement procedures that will
12 produce a living wage for workers in these industries.

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
14 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

15 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like 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 Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters
21 for said commission; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
23 House of Representatives no later than February 3, 2015, and said commission shall expire on
24 May 3, 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY MINIMUM WAGE
DISCREPANCIES IN THE HOSPITALITY, HOTEL, AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRIES

- 1 This resolution would create a eight (8) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study minimum wage discrepancies in the hospitality, hotel, and
- 3 restaurant industries, and who would report back to the House no later than February 3, 2015, and
- 4 whose life would expire on May 3, 2015.

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