

2014 -- S 2537

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

JOINT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR A BI-PARTISAN PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE
INFORMATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR A VOTE
BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS ON THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIV SECTION 2 OF THE RHODE
ISLAND CONSTITUTION

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Cote, Ottiano, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Under the terms of Section 2 of Article XIV of Amendments and Revisions
2 to the Rhode Island Constitution the question "Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the
3 constitution?" must appear on the ballot at the general election, to be held on November 4, 2014;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XIV further provides that "prior to a vote by the
6 qualified electors on the holding of a convention, the general assembly...shall provide for a bi-
7 partisan preparatory commission to assemble information on constitutional questions for the
8 electors..."; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That such Preparatory Commission shall consist of twelve (12) members:
10 four (4) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than three (3) from
11 the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; four (4)
12 of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to
13 be appointed by the President of the Senate; and four (4) of whom shall be members of the public,
14 none of whom shall be a holder of any elective public office, two (2) of whom shall be appointed
15 by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be from a list of three (3) persons to be provided
16 by the House Minority Leader, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the President of the
17 Senate, one of whom shall be from a list of three (3) persons to be provided by the Senate
18 Minority Leader; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Preparatory Commission shall report its findings to the Governor,
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and to the public,
3 through the news media, no later than July 30, 2014.

4 Forthwith upon the passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet
5 at the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and shall organize and
6 select from among themselves two (2) co-chairpersons, one of whom shall be a member of the
7 House of Representatives and one of whom shall be a member of the Senate. Vacancies in said
8 commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve until
9 submission of their final report.

10 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services but
11 shall be allowed their travel and necessary expenses. The commission may engage such clerical,
12 technical and other assistance as it may deem necessary to accomplish this purpose.

13 The commission may make use of such sources and means of gathering information
14 pertinent to the fulfillment of its charge as it may deem appropriate.

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

18 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and requested to
19 provide suitable quarters for said commission.

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