

2015 -- H 5308

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Reilly, Price, Filippi, and Lancia

Date Introduced: February 05, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 22-14-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 22-14 entitled "Legislative  
2 Oversight Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **22-14-1. Establishment -- Purpose -- Membership -- Compensation.** -- (a) There is  
4 established an oversight commission empowered to conduct evaluations and reviews of statutes,  
5 statutory entities, and associated rules and regulations. The review or evaluation shall include, but  
6 not be limited to, the following as its objectives:

7 (1) The elimination of inactive entities or statutes;

8 (2) The elimination of entities or statutes that duplicate other entities or statutes or other  
9 governmental programs and activities or determination of an appropriate consolidation for the  
10 duplicate entities, statutes, or governmental programs and activities;

11 (3) The elimination or modification of inefficient, unnecessary, or ineffective entities or  
12 statutes; and

13 (4) The determination of the impact of rules and regulations promulgated by any entity.

14 (b) The commission shall consist of fourteen (14) members all of whom shall be citizens  
15 and residents of this state; four (4) of whom shall be members of the house of representatives, not  
16 more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the speaker; three (3) of  
17 whom shall be members of the senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be  
18 appointed by the president of the senate; one of whom shall be the director of administration; four  
19 (4) of whom shall be members of the general public to be appointed by the governor; one of

1 whom shall be the fiscal assistant to the house finance committee; and one of whom shall be the  
2 auditor general.

3 (c) The public members shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years except for the two  
4 (2) members originally appointed; one shall be appointed for a term of one year and one shall be  
5 appointed for a term of two (2) years.

6 (d) The legislative members shall serve a term of two (2) years. The members shall  
7 annually elect one of them as chairperson of the commission.

8 (e) Any vacancy on the commission, occurring for any reason prior to the expiration of  
9 the term, including, but not limited to, termination of active membership in the general assembly,  
10 shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointing authority in the same manner as the  
11 original appointment.

12 (f) Any member of the commission may, for cause, be summarily removed from office  
13 by the appointing authority, which removal shall be subject to judicial review by the superior  
14 court, and pending that review the member shall not carry out any duties as a commission  
15 member.

16 (g) The director of administration, the fiscal assistant to the house finance committee,  
17 and the auditor general respectively may designate a person to represent them at all commission  
18 meetings.

19 (h) The members of the commission, except those members from the general public,  
20 shall receive no salaries but shall be allowed reasonable expenses in the performance of their  
21 official duties.

22 (i) The members from the general public shall not be compensated for service on the  
23 board.

24 (j) The secretary of the commission shall have the power to issue subpoenas upon a  
25 majority vote of the commission.

26 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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1           This act would enable the secretary of the oversight commission to issue subpoenas upon  
2 a majority vote.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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