

**2015 -- H 5488 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC000561/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROVIDING INTERNET, CABLE TELEVISION, AND PHONE  
SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN  
NORTHWESTERN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Serpa, Amore, Handy, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: House Corporations

1           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
2 consisting of nine (9) members: four (4) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House of  
3 Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Chairperson of the Rhode Island Public Utilities  
5 Commission, or designee; one of whom shall be the Administrator of the Division of Public  
6 Utilities and Carriers, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be telecommunication providers in the  
7 state, to be appointed by the Speaker; and one of whom shall be the Superintendent of the Foster-  
8 Gloucester Regional School District.

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

14           The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and analysis of  
15 the efficacy and fiscal impact of providing free internet, phone, and cable television services to  
16 eligible residents in underserved communities in northwestern Rhode Island.

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

1           Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

8           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
9 House of Representatives no later than April 5, 2016, and said commission shall expire on June 5,  
10 2016.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to study and make recommendations on providing internet, cable  
3 television, and phone services to eligible residents in underserved communities in northwestern  
4 Rhode Island, and who would report back to the House no later than April 5, 2016, and whose life  
5 would expire on June 5, 2016.

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