

2016 -- H 7961

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LC005119
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLEMENTATION OF A
SUPERMARKET FOOD DONATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Maldonado, and Nardolillo

Date Introduced: March 18, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, Local food pantries have become critically important to households and
2 families that literally live hand to mouth, and with difficult economic times, donations and
3 contributions cannot keep up with need; and

4 WHEREAS, Feeding America's 2014 statistics indicate that 48.1 million Americans,
5 including 15.3 million children, 5.4 million seniors, and 27.4 million additional adults live in food
6 insecure households. In Rhode Island, 12 percent of the state's households are food insecure, and
7 4.7 percent of Rhode Island households experience severe food insecurity (hunger); and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Community Food Bank serves 60,000 Rhode Islanders
9 each month, and one out of three of those served is a child under the age of 18. Statewide, the
10 Rhode Island food distribution system disseminated 9.4 million pounds of food to families last
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, The National Resource Defense Council reports that 40 percent of the food
13 in the United States is lost somewhere from farm to landfill, with food being the number one
14 component in our nation's landfills and one-third of all food produced for humans going to waste;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Johnston Landfill handles most of the 1.5 million tons of garbage the
17 state generates annually, and while the site is not forecast to fill up for another 25 years, if the
18 trash stream is cut down, it could last many more years; and

19 WHEREAS, According to Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) Solid

1 Waste Characterization Study, 46 percent of the waste produced by grocery stores was from food
2 and 48 percent of the waste produced from restaurants is food; and

3 WHEREAS, These food waste products, from both grocery stores and restaurants, are
4 directly impacting our already overburdened landfills and have a great potential for reduction
5 through donation programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Section 21-34-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws protects donors from
7 liability and yet, according to We Share Hope, one in seven Rhode Islanders are still food
8 insecure. The commitment by local grocery stores to donating nutritious, leftover food to feed
9 hungry people, not landfills, will be a positive step in solving our states hunger pains; now,
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
12 consisting of thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
13 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
14 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
15 Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger
16 Free America, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of Acquisition and Distribution for
17 the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the
18 Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of a Rhode
19 Island Chamber of Commerce Association, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of
20 whom shall be the Dean of Culinary Education in the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson &
21 Wales University, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Rhode Island Food Policy
22 Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Rhode Island Hospitality
23 Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Inter-Agency Food & Nutrition
24 Policy Advisory Council, or designee; and one of whom shall be a member of the St. Joseph's
25 Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Newport, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
26 House.

27 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
28 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
29 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
30 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
31 is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general public.

32 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
33 recommendations for the steps necessary to implement and provide incentives to increase
34 supermarket food donations in Rhode Island.

1 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
2 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson from among the
3 legislators.

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

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

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

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

11 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
12 House of Representatives no later than February 7, 2017, and said commission shall expire on
13 May 7, 2017.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLEMENTATION OF A
SUPERMARKET FOOD DONATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and develop
3 recommendations to implement incentives to increase supermarket food donations in the State of
4 Rhode Island, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than February
5 7, 2017, and whose life would expire on May 7, 2017.

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