

2016 -- H 8223

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LC005989
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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 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ACTUAL AND
POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Handy, Regunberg, Shekarchi, and Hearn

Date Introduced: May 18, 2016

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as "The Rhode Island
2 Commission on Ocean Acidification" be and the same is hereby created consisting of thirteen
3 (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more
4 than two (2) from the same political party to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of
5 whom shall be the Chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee; one of
6 whom shall be the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one
7 of whom shall be the Chair of the Coastal Resources Management Council, or designee; one of
8 whom shall be the Executive Director of Save the Bay, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be
9 persons who fish commercially, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom
10 shall be representatives of business, one of whom shall be appointed by the Greater Providence
11 Chamber of Commerce, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Newport Chamber of
12 Commerce; and two (2) of whom shall be representatives of higher education, one of whom shall
13 be appointed by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, and one of whom
14 shall be appointed by the President of the University of Rhode Island.

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

1 The purpose of said commission shall be to study the actual and potential effects of ocean
2 acidification on Rhode Island; to identify the scientific data and knowledge available, as well as
3 the gaps in that data and knowledge, in order to enable the state to craft and prioritize policy and
4 other coordinated responses to ocean acidification; and to develop recommendations on how to
5 respond to and mitigate the adverse effects of ocean acidification in order to increase economic
6 and ecosystem sustainability.

7 To support its purposes, the commission shall have the following duties, including but
8 not limited to:

9 (1) Review and summarize the existing studies, research and programs relevant to ocean
10 acidification pertinent to Rhode Island, including identification of marine species at risk of being
11 impacted by ocean acidification and the anticipated consequences on those marine species and the
12 economies that depend on them.

13 (2) Identify the gaps in research and the monitoring needed in Rhode Island to increase
14 the state's scientific understanding and strengthen the linkage between science and management
15 actions.

16 (3) Develop recommendations for actions to respond to increasing ocean acidification
17 and reduce the harmful effects on Rhode Island's marine resources. Recommendations should
18 first emphasize the use of existing laws and regulations and better coordination of existing
19 policies and programs, and focus on actions that complement, build on, and reinforce existing
20 regional and state activities, rather than creating new programs; secondary recommendations shall
21 include potential legislative or executive actions.

22 (4) Identify opportunities to improve coordination, strengthen existing partnerships, and
23 develop new partnerships across jurisdictional boundaries, levels of government and with
24 nonprofit organizations and private businesses. Recommendations should include examples and
25 options for outreach and communication that will enhance public awareness and understanding of
26 ocean acidification and how to address it.

27 (5) Explore financial strategies that could be made available to governmental entities,
28 nonprofit entities and businesses to assist in implementing the actions identified by the
29 commission to mitigate the harmful effects of ocean acidification on Rhode Island's marine
30 resources.

31 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
32 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize. The Chair of the House Environment and
33 Natural Resources Committee shall serve as chairperson of the commission.

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

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

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

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

7 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its initial findings to the Governor and the
8 House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2017, its final report and recommendations no
9 later than April 1, 2017, and said commission shall expire on June 5, 2017.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ACTUAL AND
POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON RHODE ISLAND

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the actual and potential effects of
3 ocean acidification on Rhode Island, and who would report back its initial findings to the
4 Governor and the House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2017, its final report and
5 recommendations no later than April 1, 2017, and whose life would expire on June 5, 2017.

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