

2016 -- S 2538

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LC003755
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSIONS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 30-29-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 30-29 entitled "Committee
2 on Naval Affairs" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **30-29-1. Permanent committee -- Composition. --** There is hereby created a permanent
4 committee on naval affairs, to consist of ~~sixteen (16)~~ seventeen (17) members, six (6) of whom
5 shall be appointed by the speaker, at least one of whom shall be a member of the house of
6 representatives, and at least one of whom shall be a member of the general public; ~~three (3) of~~
7 ~~whom shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor; two (2)~~ six (6) of whom shall be ~~members of~~
8 ~~the senate, not more than one from the same party, to be~~ appointed by the president of the senate,
9 at least one of whom shall be a member of the senate and at least one of whom shall be a member
10 of the general public; one of whom shall be a member of the general public appointed by the
11 governor; one of whom shall be the director of the department of economic development, ex
12 officio or his or her designee; and three (3) of whom shall be naval personnel, appointed by the
13 senior naval officer permanently stationed in Rhode Island. Vacancies shall be filled in like
14 manner as the original appointments. The members of the committee shall, without
15 compensation, serve for two (2) years and until their successors are duly appointed.

16 SECTION 2. Section 40.1-29-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 40.1-29 entitled
17 "Governor's Council on Behavioral Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **40.1-29-3. Members. --** (a) The council shall consist of twenty-six (26) members.

1 (1) There shall be four (4) members of the legislature, two (2) shall be from the senate
2 and shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ senate president to serve for their legislative
3 term, one from each of the major political parties, and two (2) shall be from the house of
4 representatives and shall be appointed by the speaker to serve for their legislative term, one from
5 each of the two (2) major political parties.

6 (2) The non-legislative members shall be the executive director of the Drug and Alcohol
7 Treatment Association, the executive director of the Council of Community Mental Health
8 Organizations, the mental health advocate, and a representative of the AFL-CIO to be appointed
9 by the governor.

10 (3) The remaining eighteen (18) public members shall be appointed by and serve at the
11 pleasure of the governor and shall represent such community interests as substance abuse
12 treatment and prevention professionals, consumers of substance abuse programs and their
13 families, mental health treatment professionals, adult and elderly consumers of mental health
14 services and their families, families of children who are consumers of mental health and
15 substance abuse services, the judiciary, criminal justice officials and local government officials.

16 (4) Not less than fifty (50%) percent of the public members shall be individuals who are
17 not state employees or providers of behavioral health services.

18 (5) There shall be sufficient representation by the families of children who are
19 consumers of mental health and substance abuse services in order to ensure adequate
20 representation of such children.

21 (6) Every effort shall be made to ensure that appointed members represent the cultural
22 diversity of the state.

23 (7) All members shall have demonstrable expertise in, or experience with substance
24 abuse or mental health services in Rhode Island. In addition, the directors or their designees of the
25 departments of children, youth, and families; corrections; education; health; human services;
26 elderly affairs and mental health, retardation, and hospitals; the attorney general or designee and
27 the executive director of the Rhode Island justice commission shall serve as ex officio and
28 without a vote as members of the council.

29 (b) Any vacancy which may occur in the council shall be filled in the same manner as
30 the original appointments.

31 (c) The governor shall designate one member as the chairperson of the council.

32 SECTION 3. Section 42-23-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-23 entitled
33 "Commission on Interstate Cooperation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 **42-23-2. Composition -- Tenure of members.** -- (a) The commission on interstate

1 cooperation shall consist of:

2 (1) The governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, ~~and~~ the speaker of the
3 house of representatives, and the senate president, ex officio;

4 (2) Four (4) members of the senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, not
5 more than three (3) of whom shall be members of the same political party;

6 (3) Four (4) members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker, not
7 more than three (3) of whom shall be members of the same political party; and

8 (4) Five (5) qualified electors of the state, not more than four (4) of whom shall be
9 members of the same political party, to be appointed by the governor.

10 (b) Each member of the commission who holds public office shall serve during his or her
11 term of office and the other members shall serve during the pleasure of the governor.

12 SECTION 4. Section 42-58-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-58 entitled "American
13 and Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 **42-58-1. Commission established.** -- There shall be an American and Canadian French
15 cultural exchange commission to consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be American
16 citizens of French Canadian ancestry and residents of the state; three (3) of whom shall be
17 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by
18 the ~~lieutenant governor~~ senate president; and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the
19 governor. This commission shall establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties between French-
20 Canadians and Franco-Americans; foster a special interest in the historical and cultural
21 background of both groups, as well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic life of the
22 countries involved; and shall help establish or promote French language programs in the schools
23 of the state.

24 SECTION 5. Section 42-65-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-65 entitled "American
25 and Irish Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 **42-65-1. Commission established.** -- There shall be an American and Irish cultural
27 exchange commission to consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be American citizens
28 descended from Irish ancestry and residents of the state; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by
29 the speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant~~
30 ~~governor~~ senate president; and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the governor. The
31 commission shall establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties between Irish and Irish-
32 Americans; foster a special interest in the historical and cultural background of both groups, as
33 well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic life of the countries involved; and shall help
34 establish or promote Gaelic language programs in the schools of the state.

1 SECTION 6. Section 42-77-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-77 entitled "Minority
2 Groups Advisory Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-77-1. Commission established.** -- There shall be a minority groups advisory
4 commission to consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be members of minority groups;
5 three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of
6 whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ senate president; and three (3) of whom shall
7 be appointed by the governor. The commission shall establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties
8 among various minority groups located within the state; advise the governor and general
9 assembly on any problem encountering various groups of minorities, especially refugees; and
10 foster a special interest in the historical and cultural background of minority groups, as well as in
11 the economic, political, social, and artistic life of the countries involved.

12 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSIONS

- 1 This act would change the responsibility of making appointments to certain advisory and
- 2 exchange commissions from the lieutenant governor to the senate president.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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