

2017 -- H 6278

LC002782

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS "GROWING
TOURISM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND"

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Fogarty, Marshall, Filippi, and Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: June 02, 2017

Referred To: House Small Business

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island hosted 24.1 million visitors in 2015, and that year, the tourism
2 economy reached \$6 billion dollars in our state; and

3 WHEREAS, One in eight Rhode Island jobs were sustained by the tourism economy and
4 over 80,000 direct and indirect jobs were supported by the industry; and

5 WHEREAS, The tax revenues generated by tourism offset the average Rhode Island
6 household burden by \$1750 per household and every 500 visitors to Rhode Island supported the
7 education of one Rhode Island student for one year; and

8 WHEREAS, Visitor spending has increased 21 percent cumulatively since 2010, and the
9 lodging and recreation sectors have exhibited the strongest growth with 39 percent and 29 percent
10 growth respectively since 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, Tourism is and continues to be an essential component to the economic
12 stability, success, and growth of our state; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the special legislative commission to be known as "Growing Tourism
14 in the State of Rhode Island" be and the same is hereby created consisting of eighteen (18)
15 members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, not
16 more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
17 one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, or designee; one
18 of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, or designee; one of
19 whom shall be the President and CEO of the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors

1 Bureau, or designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of Discover Newport, or
2 designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Block Island Tourism Council, or
3 designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the South County Tourism Council, or
4 designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Tourism
5 Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Warwick Department of Tourism,
6 Culture and Development, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Providence
7 Tourism Council, or designee; three (3) of whom shall be representatives of Providence, South
8 County, and Newport private sector tourism, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
9 one of whom shall be the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation
10 (RIAC), or designee.

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

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to examine and focus on:

- 17 • Creating and promoting policies which enhance a coordinated tourism and visitor
18 industry within the state;
- 19 • Utilizing a statewide coordination of efforts and information to evaluate modifying the
20 state's tourism management and oversight structure;
- 21 • Exploring the economic impact of environmental quality on the tourism industry;
- 22 • Developing a comprehensive and unified metrics framework for the state and local
23 regions in order to make evaluations for all future state government tourism investments;
- 24 • Re-evaluating the formula used for the distribution of the Hotel and Lodging tax in
25 order to reflect a 21st century tourism model that strategically fits the state's tourism management
26 structures and provides equitably;
- 27 • Analyzing and evaluating the impact, sustainability, and expansion of international
28 tourism on Rhode Island's tourism economy.

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

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

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

33 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
34 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or

1 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

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

4 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
5 House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2019, and said commission shall expire on
6 March 5, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS "GROWING
TOURISM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND"

1 This resolution would create an eighteen member "Growing Tourism in the State of
2 Rhode Island" commission whose purpose it would be to examine, evaluate and provide
3 recommendations to manage and grow Rhode Island's tourism economy, and who would report
4 back to the House no later than January 5, 2019, and whose life would expire on March 5, 2019.

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