

2017 -- H 6301

LC002824

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- APPOINTMENTS  
COMMISSIONS

Introduced By: Representative K. Joseph Shekarchi

Date Introduced: June 08, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40.1-29-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 40.1-29 entitled  
2 "Governor's Council on Behavioral Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40.1-29-3. Members.**

4 (a) The council shall consist of twenty-six (26) members.

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

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

14 (3) The remaining eighteen (18) public members shall be appointed by and serve at the  
15 pleasure of the governor and shall represent such community interests as substance abuse  
16 treatment and prevention professionals, consumers of substance abuse programs and their  
17 families, mental health treatment professionals, adult and elderly consumers of mental health  
18 services and their families, families of children who are consumers of mental health and

1 substance abuse services, the judiciary, criminal justice officials and local government officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 **42-23-2. Composition -- Tenure of members.**

21 (a) The commission on interstate cooperation shall consist of:

22 (1) The governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, ~~and~~ the speaker of the  
23 house of representatives, [and the senate president](#), ex officio;

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

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

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

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

32 SECTION 3. Section 42-58-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-58 entitled "American  
33 and Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 **42-58-1. Commission established.**

1           There shall be an American and Canadian French cultural exchange commission to  
2 consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be American citizens of French Canadian ancestry  
3 and residents of the state; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
4 representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ [senate president](#);  
5 and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the governor. This commission shall establish,  
6 maintain, and develop cultural ties between French-Canadians and Franco-Americans; foster a  
7 special interest in the historical and cultural background of both groups, as well as in the  
8 economic, political, social, and artistic life of the countries involved; and shall help establish or  
9 promote French language programs in the schools of the state.

10           SECTION 4. Section 42-65-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-65 entitled "American  
11 and Irish Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

12           **42-65-1. Commission established.**

13           There shall be an American and Irish cultural exchange commission to consist of nine (9)  
14 members, all of whom shall be American citizens descended from Irish ancestry and residents of  
15 the state; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;  
16 three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ [senate president](#); and three (3) of  
17 whom shall be appointed by the governor. The commission shall establish, maintain, and develop  
18 cultural ties between Irish and Irish-Americans; foster a special interest in the historical and  
19 cultural background of both groups, as well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic life  
20 of the countries involved; and shall help establish or promote Gaelic language programs in the  
21 schools of the state.

22           SECTION 5. Section 42-77-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-77 entitled "Minority  
23 Groups Advisory Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

24           **42-77-1. Commission established.**

25           There shall be a minority groups advisory commission to consist of nine (9) members, all  
26 of whom shall be members of minority groups; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the  
27 speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant~~  
28 ~~governor~~ [senate president](#); and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the governor. The  
29 commission shall establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties among various minority groups  
30 located within the state; advise the governor and general assembly on any problem encountering  
31 various groups of minorities, especially refugees; and foster a special interest in the historical and  
32 cultural background of minority groups, as well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic  
33 life of the countries involved.

1 SECTION 6. 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  
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- 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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