

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF  
LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, Seveney, Metts, DiPalma, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The effects of legalizing marijuana have not been fully vetted and analyzed  
2 in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Data and analysis from Colorado and Washington, as states that have  
4 legalized recreational use of marijuana, can help inform the conversation in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, The effects on all populations should be considered, including students, and  
6 adults and youth in recovery; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
8 consisting of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more  
9 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; three  
10 (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the  
11 same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a  
12 representative from Smart Approaches to Marijuana or a similar organization, to be appointed by  
13 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the President of the Substance Use Mental  
14 Health Council of RI, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of an organization that is a  
15 proponent for the legalization of marijuana, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of  
16 whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Medical Society, or designee; one of  
17 whom shall be a member of a local chamber of commerce, to be appointed by the President of  
18 the Senate; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Health, or designee; one of  
19 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Police Chief's Association, or designee; one of

1 whom shall be the Attorney General, or designee; and one of whom shall represent medical  
2 marijuana patients in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

8 The purpose of said Commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and make  
9 recommendations regarding marijuana and the effects of its use on the residents of Colorado and  
10 Washington to the extent available, and to study the fiscal impact to those states; and thereafter  
11 the potential impact on Rhode Island.

12 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
13 the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and organize. The President  
14 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each select one member to serve as co-  
15 chairpersons of the commission.

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

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

18 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
19 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or  
20 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purpose of this resolution.

21 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
22 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and results to the General  
24 Assembly on or before March 1, 2018, and said commission shall expire on July 1, 2018.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF  
LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

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1           This resolution would create a fifteen (15) member special legislative commission whose  
2   purpose it would be to make a comprehensive review and make recommendations on the effects  
3   of legalizing marijuana, and who would report back to the General Assembly on or before March  
4   1, 2018, and said commission would expire on July 1, 2018.

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