

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE UPDATING, STREAMLINING AND
ENSURING RELEVANCE OF RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS TITLE 16

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Gallo, Conley, Metts, and Seveney

Date Introduced: March 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, Title 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws is the set of laws that govern
2 education in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Many laws exist that are no longer relevant to a twenty-first century
4 education; and

5 WHEREAS; It is timely that these laws are reviewed to ensure that no statutory barrier
6 exists to provide our students with a world class education; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
8 consisting of fourteen (14) members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more
9 than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
10 whom shall be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; one of
11 whom shall be the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be
12 the President of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom
13 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, or designee; one of
14 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, or
15 designee; one of whom shall be the President of the National Education Association of Rhode
16 Island; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health
17 Professionals; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island PTA, or designee; and one
18 of whom shall be the Executive Director of Young Voices, or designee.

19 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory

1 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly
2 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
3 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
4 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

5 The purpose of the said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and
6 make recommendations to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the
7 Office of the Postsecondary Commission and any other state agency regarding the updating,
8 streamlining and ensuring relevance of the laws contained in Rhode Island General Laws Title
9 16.

10 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
11 the call of the Chair, who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. Vacancies in said
12 commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
20 President of the Senate on or before March 1, 2018, and said commission shall expire on July 1,
21 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND MAKE
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1 This resolution would create a fourteen (14) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations to the
3 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office of the Postsecondary
4 Commission and any other state agency regarding the updating, streamlining and ensuring
5 relevance of the laws contained in Rhode Island General Laws Title 16, and who would report
6 back to the Senate no later than March 1, 2018, and whose life would expire on July 1, 2018.

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