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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
CREATION OF A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RHODE ISLAND

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

Date Introduced: May 11, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, The Program for International Assessment (PISA) is an international
2 assessment that measures the academic performance in reading, mathematics and science literacy
3 of a sampling 15-year-old students in each country with the most recent assessment occurring in
4 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States ranked 24 out of 65 countries in the 2015 PISA; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures released a report titled, "No
7 Time to Lose – How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State," that identified the
8 common elements of educational systems of high-performing countries; and

9 WHEREAS, The report found that most high-performing countries had developed an
10 integrated plan for public education and implemented that plan over the course of 10 to 20 years;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Children should come to school ready to learn, and extra support should be
13 provided to struggling students so that all have the opportunity to achieve high standards; and

14 WHEREAS, A world-class teaching profession supports a world-class instructional
15 system, where every student has access to highly effective teachers and is expected to succeed;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A highly effective, intellectually rigorous system of career and technical
18 education should be available to those preferring an applied education; and

19 WHEREAS, Individual reforms should be connected and aligned as parts of a clearly

1 planned and carefully designed comprehensive system; and

2 WHEREAS, Students should be provided a learning environment in classrooms,
3 buildings and facilities that enable learning in a safe environment; and

4 WHEREAS, Students and parents are entitled to a clear statement of the academic
5 standards that define what students are expected to know and accomplish at every educational
6 level and identify the basic conditions for learning that pupils and families can expect from
7 Rhode Island's Public Education System; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's public education should enable students to compete for
9 admission at any public university in the state, to compete for a high quality job, and to participate
10 actively in Rhode Island's civic life; and

11 WHEREAS, Students should be subject to a fair and accurate assessment system used to
12 measure and improve the quality of education and supplementary educational services that
13 respond to and identify student needs; and

14 WHEREAS, A diverse group of stakeholders should examine the elements of a world-
15 class education system and the public education system in Rhode Island and provide
16 recommendations; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
18 consisting of eleven (11) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more
19 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
20 whom shall be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; one of
21 whom shall be the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be
22 the President of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom
23 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, or designee; one of
24 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, or
25 designee; one of whom shall be the President of the National Education Association of Rhode
26 Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Federation of
27 Teachers and Health Professionals, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director
28 of Rhode Island Kids Count, or designee.

29 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
30 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
31 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
32 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
33 which is entitled to the appointment, consents to the appointment of the member of the general
34 public.

1 The purpose of the said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and
2 make recommendations regarding the creation of a world-class education system in Rhode Island.
3 Recommendations may include, but is not limited to, programmatic changes, expanding
4 successful pilot programs, and identifying outdated requirements and practices.

5 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
6 the call of the Chair, who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

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

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
15 President of the Senate on or before March 1, 2018, and said commission shall expire on July 1,
16 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
CREATION OF A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RHODE ISLAND

1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations
3 regarding the creation of a world-class education system in Rhode Island, and who would report
4 back to the President of the Senate no later than March 1, 2018, and whose life would expire on
5 July 1, 2018.

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