

2018 -- H 7975

LC004425

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN
BLACKSTONE VALLEY**

Introduced By: Representatives Marszalkowski, Morin, Tobon, O'Grady, and Newberry

Date Introduced: March 16, 2018

Referred To: House Municipal Government

1 WHEREAS, Sound economic development is essential to the future of the Blackstone
2 Valley, consisting of the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Glocester,
3 Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Smithfield, and Woonsocket; now,
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
6 consisting of eighteen (18) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of
7 Representatives representing communities in the Blackstone Valley, not more than two (2) from
8 the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the
9 President of Bryant University, or designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the
10 Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, or designee; one of whom shall be the Rhode
11 Island Secretary of Commerce, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
12 Pawtucket Foundation, or designee; one of whom shall be the Project Coordinator of the Broad
13 Street Regeneration Initiative, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairman/Executive
14 Director of the Downtown Woonsocket Collaborative, or designee; one of whom shall be the
15 Chair of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the
16 Executive Director of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association, or designee; three (3) of
17 whom shall be representatives of small business owners with not more than twenty (20)
18 employees, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be
19 representatives of large business owners with more than twenty (20) employees, to be appointed

1 by the Speaker of the House; and one of whom shall be an attorney with zoning and business
2 development experience, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

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 member of the general public.

8 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and make
9 recommendations to foster and promote the economic growth of the Blackstone Valley in order to
10 promote a stable and diversified local economy and enhance the quality of life, including, but not
11 limited to:

12 (1) Recommending strategies that promote and enhance responsible economic growth in
13 the community;

14 (2) Methods to support the continued success of existing business and industry;

15 (3) Pathways to produce a business climate that encourages new business and industry to
16 locate in the area; and

17 (4) Policies that support the overall economic welfare of the Blackstone Valley, while
18 preserving the natural beauty.

19 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
20 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson from among the
21 legislators.

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

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

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

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

29 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
30 House of Representatives no later than February 5, 2019, and said commission shall expire on
31 May 5, 2019.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

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CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN
BLACKSTONE VALLEY

1 This resolution would create an eighteen (18) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and provide
3 recommendations to encourage economic development within the Blackstone Valley, and who
4 would report back to the House of Representatives no later than February 5, 2019, and whose life
5 would expire on May 5, 2019.

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