

2018 -- S 2575 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004847/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY POTENTIAL REFORM
OF VICIOUS DOGS HEARINGS**

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Seveney, Lynch Prata, Archambault, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: March 01, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 13.1 of Title 4 of the General Laws governs the regulation of
2 vicious dogs, including the hearings that determine a dog's status as vicious; and

3 WHEREAS, There continues to be debate among stakeholders including the Rhode
4 Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA) regarding the form and
5 procedure of said hearings; and

6 WHEREAS, Input from stakeholders representing the animal welfare community and
7 city solicitors offices who participate in said hearings is vital to the meaningful reform of this
8 process; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
10 consisting of eight (8) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, to be
11 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the President of the RISPCA, or
12 designee; one of whom shall be a certified animal behaviorist, to be appointed by the President of
13 the Senate; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs
14 Association, or designee; one of whom shall be an Animal Control Officer, to be appointed by the
15 President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island State Veterinarian, or designee;
16 and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Potter League for Animals, or designee.

17 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
18 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
19 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu

1 of a legislator.

2 The purpose of said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and make
3 recommendations regarding the regulation of vicious dogs and any administrative hearings
4 pertaining to them.

5 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
6 the call of the President of the Senate and organize. The President of the Senate shall select one
7 member to serve as chairperson of the commission.

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

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

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
16 Senate on or before March 1, 2019, and said commission shall expire on July 1, 2019.

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