

2019 -- H 5612

LC001132

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE IMPACT,
BENEFITS, AND FISCAL RAMIFICATIONS OF CREATING A SINGLE-PAYER
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Ranglin-Vassell, Williams, Caldwell, and Kislak

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Single-payer healthcare is a healthcare system financed by taxes that covers
2 the costs of essential healthcare for all residents, with costs covered by a single public system
3 (hence "single-payer"). Alternatively, a multi-payer healthcare system is one in which private,
4 qualified individuals or their employers pay for health insurance with various limits on healthcare
5 coverage via multiple private or public sources; and

6 WHEREAS, Single-payer healthcare systems pay for all covered healthcare-related
7 services by a single government or government-related source. It is a strategy employed by
8 governments to achieve several goals, including universal healthcare, decreased economic burden
9 of healthcare, and improved health outcomes for the population. Universal healthcare worldwide
10 was established as a goal of the World Health Organization in 2010 and adopted by the United
11 Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; now,
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
14 consisting of nine (9) members: four (4) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House of
15 Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the director of the department of health, or designee;
17 one of whom shall be a licensed physician, or designee; one of whom shall be the Lieutenant
18 Governor, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative of a state nursing association or
19 union, or designee; and one of whom shall be a member of a local chamber of commerce, or

1 designee.

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

7 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of:

8 (1) The benefits and ramifications/fiscal impact of creating a single-payer healthcare
9 system in the State of Rhode Island;

10 (2) Determine the viability of creating a single-payer healthcare system in the State of
11 Rhode Island; and

12 (3) Establish funding source for the single-payer healthcare system.

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

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 purposes of this resolution.

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

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 House of Representatives no later than February 5, 2020, and said commission shall expire on
25 May 5, 2020.

=====
LC001132
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE IMPACT,
BENEFITS, AND FISCAL RAMIFICATIONS OF CREATING A SINGLE-PAYER
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN RHODE ISLAND

1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the benefits, ramifications/fiscal
3 impact and cost of creating a single-payer healthcare system in the State of Rhode Island, and
4 who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than February 5, 2020, and
5 whose life would expire on May 5, 2020.

=====
LC001132
=====