

2019 -- H 6252

LC002913

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RHODE ISLAND
PARENTAGE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Craven, Caldwell, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: June 25, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's parentage statutes were last updated in the 1970s; and

2 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for revision of these outdated laws in order to
3 ensure that all children have access to legal parentage and to ensure that the state's laws are fair
4 and constitutional for all Rhode Island families; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
6 consisting of eleven (11) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
7 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
8 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Family
9 Court, or designee; one of whom shall be a GLAD referred lawyer, to be appointed by the
10 Executive Director of GLAD Legal Advocates & Defenders; one of whom shall be the Executive
11 Director of the Alliance for Children, or designee; one of whom shall be the CEO and Executive
12 Director of Adoption Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be a staff member in the
13 Rhode Island Office of Vital Records, to be appointed by the Director of the Rhode Island
14 Department of Health; one of whom shall be an attorney with the Rhode Island Department of
15 Human Services, Office of Child Support Services, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
16 one of whom shall be a guardian ad litem, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one
17 of whom shall be a pediatrician, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

18 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
19 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly

1 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
2 of a legislator.

3 The purpose of said commission shall be to review the current "Uniform Law on
4 Paternity" and provide recommendations for revisions that would construct and establish a
5 comprehensive "Rhode Island Parentage Act" that stipulates procedures for establishing
6 parentage including, but not limited to, a legal bond between child and parent within various
7 family relationships, and for children conceived through various methods including, but not
8 limited to, genetic testing, surrogacy agreements and assisted reproduction.

9 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
10 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
19 House of Representatives no later than May 20, 2020, and said commission shall expire on June
20 19, 2020.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
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PARENTAGE ACT

- 1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to review and provide recommendations for the establishment of a
- 3 Rhode Island Parentage Act, and who would report back to the House no later than May 20, 2020,
- 4 and whose life would expire on June 19, 2020.

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