

2019 -- S 0194

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE
RHODE ISLAND'S ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Euer, Seveney, Felag, and Murray

Date Introduced: January 31, 2019

Referred To: Senate Commerce

1 WHEREAS, All Rhode Islanders depend on and deserve a safe and reliable electrical
2 power and natural gas transmission and distribution infrastructure system to meet the demands of
3 today and the expected demands of tomorrow; and

4 WHEREAS, A dependable electric and natural gas transmission and distribution
5 infrastructure system is critical to homeowners as well as businesses; and

6 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Rhode Island plans for the needs of today and
7 tomorrow. To that end, a reliable and resilient electric and natural gas transmission and
8 distribution infrastructure system is paramount; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
10 consisting of twenty-two (22) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not
11 more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
12 three (3) of whom shall be members of the House, not more than two (2) from the same political
13 party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Administrator of
14 the RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chief
15 Resiliency Officer of the RI Infrastructure Bank, or designee; one of whom shall be the RI
16 Cybersecurity Officer, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of RI League of
17 Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of National Grid RI, or
18 designee; one of whom shall be the General Manager of Providence Water, or designee; one of
19 whom shall be the Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Commission, or designee; one of

1 whom shall be the President of Enbridge Gas, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
2 the Block Island Power Company, or designee; one of whom shall be the General Manager of the
3 Pascoag Utility District, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of Rhode Island AARP,
4 or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of RI Department of Environmental Management,
5 or designee; four (4) of whom shall be members of the public, two (2) of whom shall be
6 appointed by the President of the Senate, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker
7 of the House.

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

13 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and evaluate
14 Rhode Island's electric and natural gas transmission and distribution system infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and results to the General
23 Assembly on or before March 1, 2020, and said commission shall expire on June 30, 2020.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE
RHODE ISLAND'S ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

1 This resolution would create a twenty-two (22) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and evaluate Rhode Island's electric
3 and natural gas transmission and distribution system infrastructure, and who would report back to
4 the General Assembly on or before March 1, 2020, and said commission would expire on June
5 30, 2020.

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