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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**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 nineteen (19) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more
11 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
12 whom shall be the Administrator of the RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, or designee;
13 one of whom shall be the Chief Resiliency Officer of the RI Infrastructure Bank, or designee; one
14 of whom shall be the RI Cybersecurity Officer, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive
15 Director of RI League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
16 National Grid RI, or designee; one of whom shall be the General Manager of Providence Water,
17 or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Commission,
18 or designee; one of whom shall be the President of Enbridge Gas, or designee; one of whom shall
19 be the President of the Block Island Power Company, or designee; one of whom shall be the

1 General Manager of the Pascoag Utility District, or designee; one of whom shall be the President
2 of Rhode Island AARP, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of RI Department of
3 Environmental Management, or designee; four (4) of whom shall be members of the public, all of
4 whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

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

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

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 Senate on or
23 before March 1, 2020, and said commission shall expire on June 30, 2020.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE 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 nineteen (19) 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 Senate on or before March 1, 2020, and said commission would expire on June 30, 2020.

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