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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF
TRANSITIONING THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Conley, Pearson, Seveney, and Coyne

Date Introduced: January 21, 2020

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, As of 2017, there were sixteen states with biennial budgets, including some
2 very populous states such as, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas, as well as smaller states, including
3 our neighbor, Connecticut; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the years, several states have switched both to and from biennial
5 budgets for a variety of reasons; and

6 WHEREAS, It is prudent at this time to evaluate the benefits of transitioning Rhode
7 Island to biennial budgeting; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
9 consisting of thirteen (13) members; four (4) of whom shall be members of the House of
10 Representatives, one of whom shall be the Chair of the House Finance Committee, and two (2) of
11 whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the
12 House Minority Leader; four (4) of whom shall be members of the Senate, one of whom shall be
13 the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the
14 President of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; one
15 of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Office of Management and Budget, or
16 designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration,
17 or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Budget Office, or designee; one of whom
18 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Foundation, or designee; and one of whom shall be the
19 Executive Director of Partnership for Rhode Island, or designee.

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

6 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study on the
7 possibility of transitioning the state to establishing a biennial budget.

8 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
9 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Chair of the House
10 Finance Committee and the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee shall serve as co-
11 chairpersons.

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

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

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
20 General Assembly and the Office of the Governor no later than February 9, 2021, and said
21 commission shall expire on July 9, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF
TRANSITIONING THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
BIENNIAL BUDGET

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the possibility of transitioning the
3 state of Rhode Island to the establishment of a biennial budget, and who would report back to the
4 General Assembly and the Governor no later than February 9, 2021 and whose life would expire
5 on July 9, 2021.

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