

2020 -- S 2478

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY VOTER FRAUD

Introduced By: Senator Elaine J. Morgan

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The right to vote in a free and fair election is the most basic civil right, one
2 on which many other rights of the American people depend; and

3 WHEREAS, Preserving the experiment that is the American Republic is dependent on
4 free and fair elections; and

5 WHEREAS, Election integrity is essential and the security of the ballot box cannot be
6 left to a simple honor system; and

7 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon state government to safeguard the electoral process,
8 and ensure that every voter's right to cast a ballot is protected; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
10 consisting of seven (7) members: one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, to be appointed
11 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, to be appointed by
12 the Senate Minority Leader; one of whom shall be the Secretary of State, or designee; one of
13 whom shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Elections, or designee; one of whom shall be a
14 professional in the area of cybersecurity, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
15 whom shall be a professional with a background in law enforcement, to be appointed by the
16 Senate Majority Leader; and one of whom shall be a member of a local Board of Canvassers, to
17 be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

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
20 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu

1 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
2 which is entitled to the appointment, consents to the member of the general public.

3 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
4 recommendations for preventing voter fraud.

5 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
6 the call of the President of the Senate and organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
15 Senate no later than February 7, 2021, and said commission shall expire on April 7, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY VOTER FRAUD

1 This resolution would create a seven (7) member special legislative commission whose
2 purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations to prevent voter fraud, and who
3 would report back to the Senate no later than February 7, 2021, and whose life would expire on
4 April 7, 2021.

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