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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY EDUCATIONAL
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, and Noret

Date Introduced: April 02, 2025

Referred To: House Education

1 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the Rhode Island Constitution, it is the
2 duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and to adopt all means necessary and
3 proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education; and

4 WHEREAS, As part of this duty, the general assembly must promote and review the
5 adequacy of education received and educational outcomes for children in state care including, but
6 not limited to, those in the custody of the state through the department of children, youth, and
7 families; and

8 WHEREAS, In furtherance of and in support of the general assembly's role in education,
9 undertaking a review of the educational outcomes afforded to children in state care is an
10 appropriate and necessary step to take at this time; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to study educational outcomes and
12 results for children in state care or custody be and the same is hereby created consisting of
13 fourteen (14) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not
14 more than one from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall
15 be the director of the department of children, youth, and families, or designee; one of whom shall
16 be the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or designee; one of whom shall be a
17 certified teacher with experience in trauma informed schools to be appointed by the Speaker; one
18 of whom shall be faculty member of the Rhode Island College school of social work, to be
19 appointed by the dean of the school; one of whom shall be the superintendent of the city of

1 Cranston public schools or designee; one of whom shall be a principal of a public school within
2 the state to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the child advocate or designee;
3 one of whom shall be a special education teacher at a public school within the state to be
4 appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be a person who was previously in foster care as a
5 child to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the executive director of Adoption
6 Rhode Island or designee; one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island family court or
7 designee, to be appointed by the chief judge of the family court; and one of whom shall be the
8 chief policy officer for office of the postsecondary commissioner, or designee.

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

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to study, evaluate, and make actionable
15 recommendations on the current state of and suggestions to improve educational outcomes for
16 children in state care and custody, with a special emphasis on educational outcomes for all
17 children in the temporary, permanent, or joint custody of the department of children, youth,
18 families, and with further special emphasis on all children in alternative family settings or “foster
19 care.” The study commission shall consult with other individuals who have relevant expertise as
20 needed.

21 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
22 the call of the Speaker of the House and shall select, from among the legislators, co-chairpersons.

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
31 General Assembly no later than April 16, 2026, and said commission shall expire on May 28,
32 2026.

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