

LC003055

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING THE USE AND BUILDING THE
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Introduced By: Representative Stephen M. Casey

Date Introduced: June 12, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels - particularly natural
2 gas - for heating and electricity generation, while also making strides in renewable electricity
3 through solar, wind, and biomass; and

4 WHEREAS, Alternative fuels including, but not limited to, biofuels such as ethanol and
5 biodiesel, hydrogen, propane, wood pellets, nuclear, geothermal, and photovoltaics, have the
6 potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel costs, increase energy independence,
7 and improve public health outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Beyond their environmental benefits, alternative fuels contribute to energy
9 security, promote economic development, and support a cleaner and more resilient energy and
10 transportation sector; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has enacted laws and incentives to promote the adoption of
12 alternative fuels, including fuel efficiency standards, tax credits, and carbon reduction goals
13 across transportation and power generation sectors; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
15 consisting of fourteen (14) members: four (4) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
16 House of Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed
17 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative of the Energy Marketers
18 Association of Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be
19 a representative of a large biofuel energy company headquartered in Rhode Island, to be

1 appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative of a small to mid-
2 size biofuel energy company based in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3 one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, or designee; one
4 of whom shall be a representative of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association, to be
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative of the Rhode
6 Island Public Utilities Commission, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom
7 shall be a representative of the biomass or modern wood heating sector, either MESYS or similar,
8 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode
9 Island Office of Energy Resources, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative from the
10 Dominion Energy Nuclear Facilities, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one of
11 whom shall be a representative from the RI Business Leaders Alliance, to be appointed by the
12 Speaker of the House.

13 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
14 commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing
15 authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

16 That the purpose of said commission shall be to evaluate current and emerging alternative
17 fuel sources viable for Rhode Island's energy future, identify infrastructure requirements, assess
18 potential implementation costs, and recommend actions for encouraging in-state production, use,
19 and investment in alternative fuel technologies.

20 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
21 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson from among its
22 members.

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 and administrative support for said commission; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
31 House of Representatives no later than March 10, 2026, and said commission shall expire on May
32 10, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
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1 This resolution would create a fourteen (14) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations on viable
3 alternative fuels—excluding solar and wind—and the infrastructure and cost considerations
4 associated with their development in Rhode Island, and who would report back to the House no
5 later than March 10, 2026, and would expire on May 10, 2026.

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