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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PRESENCE AND TREATMENT OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Azzinaro, Ajello, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: June 09, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, The presence of lead in drinking water has long been determined to have
2 numerous significant negative health impacts, especially in children; and

3 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency has set the maximum contaminant
4 level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to
5 human health even at low exposure levels; and

6 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to assure the public that the state is taking all
7 actions to ensure that the risks from lead in the drinking water are addressed, and furthermore,
8 that compliance with the standards set for safe drinking water in the Lead and Copper Rule
9 (LCR), 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I, are met and/or exceeded; and

10 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to cooperate with the Environmental Protection
11 Agency (EPA) in its oversight responsibilities of state programs and address any deficiencies
12 Rhode Island may have in our current implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) 40
13 CFR Part 141 Subpart I; and

14 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to provide public health communication and
15 outreach to residents on the steps taken to reduce exposures to lead and if levels in excess of those
16 accepted are detected, information relating to what corrective actions are undertaken to correct
17 the water quality; now therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
19 and shall consist of eight (8) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of

1 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one of whom
2 shall be the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics Rhode Island Chapter, or designee;
3 one of whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode Island Kids Count, or designee; one of
4 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Water Works Association, or designee; one of
5 whom shall be the Executive Director of the National Utility Contractors Association of Rhode
6 Island, or designee; the President of the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, or
7 designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Childhood Lead Action Project,
8 or designee.

9 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to this commission, the
10 appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator,
11 provided that the majority leader or minority leader of the political party which is entitled to the
12 appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public and the public
13 member is a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the presence
15 of lead in the drinking water supplies in the State; the practices and procedures used by the State
16 to ensure compliance with State and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding lead in drinking
17 water; the condition of drinking water supply infrastructure and the efforts by drinking water
18 suppliers to mitigate lead risk in their systems; the financing options available to drinking water
19 suppliers and property owners to access low cost financing to repair/replace pipes and related
20 infrastructure.

21 Forthwith upon passage of the resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
22 the call of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission shall have the authority
23 to organize and shall select from among the legislators a chairperson and form subcommittees,
24 when deemed appropriate by a majority of the members.

25 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
26 appointment.

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

28 All departments and agencies of the state, including the Departments of Health and
29 Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, and the University of Rhode
30 Island's Water Resources Center, shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and
31 otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the
32 commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

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

1 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 House of Representatives no later than April 27, 2017, and said commission shall expire on June
3 30, 2017.

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