

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSIONS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40.1-29-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 40.1-29 entitled
2 "Governor's Council on Behavioral Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40.1-29-3. Members.**

4 (a) The council shall consist of twenty-six (26) members.

5 (1) There shall be four (4) members of the legislature, two (2) shall be from the senate
6 and shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ senate president to serve for their legislative
7 term, one from each of the major political parties, and two (2) shall be from the house of
8 representatives and shall be appointed by the speaker to serve for their legislative term, one from
9 each of the two (2) major political parties.

10 (2) The non-legislative members shall be the executive director of the Drug and Alcohol
11 Treatment Association, the executive director of the Council of Community Mental Health
12 Organizations, the mental health advocate, and a representative of the AFL-CIO to be appointed
13 by the governor.

14 (3) The remaining eighteen (18) public members shall be appointed by and serve at the
15 pleasure of the governor and shall represent such community interests as substance abuse
16 treatment and prevention professionals, consumers of substance abuse programs and their
17 families, mental health treatment professionals, adult and elderly consumers of mental health
18 services and their families, families of children who are consumers of mental health and

1 substance abuse services, the judiciary, criminal justice officials and local government officials.

2 (4) Not less than fifty (50%) percent of the public members shall be individuals who are
3 not state employees or providers of behavioral health services.

4 (5) There shall be sufficient representation by the families of children who are
5 consumers of mental health and substance abuse services in order to ensure adequate
6 representation of such children.

7 (6) Every effort shall be made to ensure that appointed members represent the cultural
8 diversity of the state.

9 (7) All members shall have demonstrable expertise in, or experience with substance
10 abuse or mental health services in Rhode Island. In addition, the directors or their designees of the
11 departments of children, youth, and families; corrections; education; health; human services;
12 elderly affairs and mental health, retardation, and hospitals; the attorney general or designee and
13 the executive director of the Rhode Island justice commission shall serve as ex officio and
14 without a vote as members of the council.

15 (b) Any vacancy which may occur in the council shall be filled in the same manner as
16 the original appointments.

17 (c) The governor shall designate one member as the chairperson of the council.

18 SECTION 2. Section 42-23-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-23 entitled
19 "Commission on Interstate Cooperation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **42-23-2. Composition -- Tenure of members.**

21 (a) The commission on interstate cooperation shall consist of:

22 (1) The governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, ~~and~~ the speaker of the
23 house of representatives, [and the senate president](#), ex officio;

24 (2) Four (4) members of the senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, not
25 more than three (3) of whom shall be members of the same political party;

26 (3) Four (4) members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker, not
27 more than three (3) of whom shall be members of the same political party; and

28 (4) Five (5) qualified electors of the state, not more than four (4) of whom shall be
29 members of the same political party, to be appointed by the governor.

30 (b) Each member of the commission who holds public office shall serve during his or her
31 term of office and the other members shall serve during the pleasure of the governor.

32 SECTION 3. Section 42-58-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-58 entitled "American
33 and Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 **42-58-1. Commission established.**

1 There shall be an American and Canadian French cultural exchange commission to
2 consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be American citizens of French Canadian ancestry
3 and residents of the state; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
4 representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ [senate president](#);
5 and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the governor. This commission shall establish,
6 maintain, and develop cultural ties between French-Canadians and Franco-Americans; foster a
7 special interest in the historical and cultural background of both groups, as well as in the
8 economic, political, social, and artistic life of the countries involved; and shall help establish or
9 promote French language programs in the schools of the state.

10 SECTION 4. Section 42-65-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-65 entitled "American
11 and Irish Cultural Exchange Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **42-65-1. Commission established.**

13 There shall be an American and Irish cultural exchange commission to consist of nine (9)
14 members, all of whom shall be American citizens descended from Irish ancestry and residents of
15 the state; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
16 three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant-governor~~ [senate president](#); and three (3) of
17 whom shall be appointed by the governor. The commission shall establish, maintain, and develop
18 cultural ties between Irish and Irish-Americans; foster a special interest in the historical and
19 cultural background of both groups, as well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic life
20 of the countries involved; and shall help establish or promote Gaelic language programs in the
21 schools of the state.

22 SECTION 5. Section 42-77-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-77 entitled "Minority
23 Groups Advisory Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **42-77-1. Commission established.**

25 There shall be a minority groups advisory commission to consist of nine (9) members, all
26 of whom shall be members of minority groups; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the
27 speaker of the house of representatives; three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the ~~lieutenant~~
28 ~~governor~~ [senate president](#); and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the governor. The
29 commission shall establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties among various minority groups
30 located within the state; advise the governor and general assembly on any problem encountering
31 various groups of minorities, especially refugees; and foster a special interest in the historical and
32 cultural background of minority groups, as well as in the economic, political, social, and artistic
33 life of the countries involved.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- APPOINTMENTS
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- 1 This act would change the responsibility of making appointments to certain advisory and
- 2 exchange commissions from the lieutenant governor to the senate president.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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