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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE RHODE ISLAND
WATER RESOURCES BOARD AND WATER SUPPLY

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Coyne, and Conley

Date Introduced: May 11, 2017

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has been endowed with many and abundant
2 sources of water supplies located advantageously, for the most part, throughout the state. The
3 proper development, protection, conservation, and use of these water resources are essential to the
4 health, safety, and welfare of the general public, and to the continued growth and economic
5 development of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, It is the duty of the water resources board to regulate the proper
7 development, protection, conservation and use of the water resources of the state; now, therefore
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as the "Commission to
10 Study the Rhode Island Water Resources Board" be and the same is hereby created consisting of
11 fifteen (15) members: one of whom shall be the Chairperson of the Senate Environment and
12 Agriculture Committee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the commission; one of whom shall
13 be the Director of the Department of Administration, or designee; one of whom shall be the
14 Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one of
15 whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, or designee; one of whom
16 shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, or designee; one of
17 whom shall be a representative of an agricultural community, to be appointed by the President of
18 the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of the Rhode Island Water Works Association,
19 to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of the

1 Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
2 whom shall be a representative of a conservation or similar environmental organization, to be
3 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be an independent private well
4 owner, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of
5 the tourism industry, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a water
6 utility customer, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a
7 representative of a Rhode Island based manufacturer, to be appointed by the President of the
8 Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of a water based outdoor recreational group, to be
9 appointed by the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be a Rhode Island attorney with
10 experience in land use, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to review all functions and operations of the
12 Water Resources Board and make recommendations to the Senate to strengthen the governance of
13 the state's water supply to ensure the proper development, protection, conservation and use of the
14 state's water resources.

15 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
16 the call of the Chairperson of the commission.

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

18 The commission shall assemble no less than four (4) times, or more often at the call of
19 the Chairperson, upon written notice of each meeting stating the place, day, and time of the
20 meeting along with the purpose and/or agenda of the meeting.

21 A quorum of the Commission shall consist of a majority of its membership and the
22 membership shall receive no compensation for their services.

23 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
24 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
25 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
27 President of the Senate no later than January 3, 2018, and said commission shall expire on March
28 3, 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE RHODE ISLAND
WATER RESOURCES BOARD AND WATER SUPPLY

1 This resolution would create a fifteen (15) member special legislative commission to be
2 known as the "Commission to Study the Rhode Island Water Resources Board" whose purpose it
3 would be to review all functions and operations of the Water Resources Board and make
4 recommendations, and who would report back to the Senate no later than January 3, 2018, and
5 whose life would expire on March 3, 2018.

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