

**2018 -- H 8031**

LC005362

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELDERLY ABUSE AND  
FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**

Introduced By: Representative Patricia A. Serpa

Date Introduced: March 30, 2018

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1           WHEREAS, Approximately one in ten Americans over age 60 have experienced some  
2 form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year.  
3 One study estimated that only one in fourteen cases of abuse are reported to authorities; and

4           WHEREAS, One in five Americans over 65 has been victimized by a financial fraud and  
5 a national study determined that financial exploitation costs seniors at least \$2.9 billion annually;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Rhode Island to convene an Elder  
8 Abuse and Exploitation Task Force to study the prevalence and impact of elder abuse and  
9 exploitation in this state; now, therefore be it

10           RESOLVED, That a special Joint Task Force be and the same is hereby created  
11 consisting of nine (9) members: one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island House of  
12 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a member of  
13 the Rhode Island Senate, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a  
14 member of the public with significant experience in elder law, to be appointed by the Speaker of  
15 the House; one of whom shall be a representative from an agency that works directly with  
16 victims of elder abuse and/or financial exploitation, to be appointed by the Senate President; one  
17 of whom shall be a member of law enforcement, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom  
18 shall be the Lieutenant Governor, or designee; one of whom shall be a member with significant  
19 experience working on issues related to elder abuse and/or financial exploitation, to be appointed

1 by the Attorney General; one of whom shall be the Director of the Division of Elderly Affairs, or  
2 designee; and one of whom shall be the State Director of the AARP-RI, or designee.

3 The purpose of said task force shall be to study the prevalence and impact of elder abuse  
4 and exploitation in this state and to make recommendations on policies and legislation to  
5 effectively address the issue impacting seniors and other vulnerable adults.

6 The initial appointments shall be made no later than August 1, 2018.

7 Members of the Task Force shall meet at the call of the House of Representatives Task  
8 Force member and the Senate Task Force member, and organize and shall select a Chairperson, a  
9 Secretary, and any other officers deemed necessary.

10 Vacancies in said task force shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

12 Members of the task force shall meet monthly, or more often at the call of the  
13 Chairperson or upon petition of a majority of the task force members.

14 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
15 documentary and otherwise, to said task force and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable  
16 by the task force to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

17 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
18 suitable quarters for said task force; and be it further,

19 RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
20 General Assembly no later than February 1, 2019, and said task force shall expire on June 30,  
21 2019.

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EXPLANATION

OF

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

CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELDERLY ABUSE AND  
FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special joint task force whose purpose it  
2 would be to make a comprehensive study on the prevalence and impact of elder abuse and  
3 exploitation in this state and to make recommendations on policies and legislation to effectively  
4 address the issue, and who would report back to the general assembly no later than February 1,  
5 2019, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2019.

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