

2018 -- S 2960

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A  
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE  
APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCY TO HOUSE ADULT EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: June 07, 2018

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The state agency with authority over adult education in Rhode Island is the  
2 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

3           WHEREAS, Adult learners usually have multi-level responsibilities, including work and  
4 family; and

5           WHEREAS, Adult learners have different needs and goals from traditional adolescents in  
6 the K-12 system; and

7           WHEREAS, Adult learners are also more likely to have been away from the classroom  
8 for a significant period of time and require unique resources to bring them to the level of  
9 competency that will enable their successful completion of the GED; and

10           WHEREAS, A recent study of LaGuardia Community College at the City University of  
11 New York and Northeast Wisconsin College in Green Bay, Wisconsin, showed that adults who  
12 attended Bridge GED programs were 20 percent more likely to complete GED classes and exams  
13 and to enroll in higher education courses; and

14           WHEREAS, While the majority of states house adult education within their Departments  
15 of Education that are responsible for grades K – 12, a number of other states have placed adult  
16 education in different state agencies; and

17           WHEREAS, Nineteen states house adult education in either the Department of Higher  
18 Education, the Department of Labor or Workforce Development, or the Department of  
19 Community and Technical Colleges; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
2 consisting of thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island  
3 Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of  
4 the Senate; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or  
5 designee; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, or designee; one  
6 of whom shall be the Director of Labor and Training, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
7 Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Board, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
8 President of the Community College of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be an adult  
9 education provider that offers GED courses, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one  
10 of whom shall be an adult education provider of English for Speakers of Other Languages, to be  
11 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of  
12 Corrections, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative of the RI Resource Hub or a  
13 similar organization committed to connecting adults with educational opportunities, to be  
14 appointed by the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be a current or former recipient  
15 of adult education in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

16           In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
17 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
18 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
19 of a legislator, provided that the Senate President or the Minority Leader of the political party that  
20 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

21           The purpose of the said commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive review and  
22 make recommendations regarding the appropriate state agency to house adult education.

23           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
24 the call of the Chair, who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

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

27           All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
28 documentary or otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable  
29 by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

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

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1           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 President of the Senate on or before March 1, 2019, and said commission shall expire on July 1,  
3 2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations
- 3 regarding the appropriate state agency to house adult education, and who would report back to the
- 4 Senate no later than March 1, 2019, and whose life would expire on July 1, 2019.

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