

2019 -- H 5553

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENCOURAGING MORE PERSONS OF COLOR TO ENTER  
THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, McNamara, Casimiro, Kazarian, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, A report by the Learning Policy Institute showed that a diverse teacher  
2 workforce is a very important strategy for improving learning and closing achievement gaps for  
3 students of color; and

4 WHEREAS, Increasing the percentage of teachers of color in Rhode Island's schools is  
5 not only important and beneficial for students of color. A diverse teacher workforce that  
6 represents the state's overall demographics will benefit students of all racial backgrounds; now,  
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
9 consisting of nine (9) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of  
10 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the  
11 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Association of  
12 School Committees, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island  
13 Association of Administrators, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode  
14 Island Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
15 President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Education Association, or designee; one of  
16 whom shall be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; and one  
17 of whom shall be the Department Chairperson of the Rhode Island College School of Education  
18 (Youth Development Program), or designee.

19 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory

1 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
2 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
3 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which  
4 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

5 The purpose of said commission shall be to study and make recommendations for  
6 encouraging students of color to enter the field of education. The recommendations should  
7 include, but not be limited to:

- 8 • An intentional and sustained approach to informing students of color in the state's  
9 public high schools on the importance and benefits of entering the field of education;
- 10 • A process or method to prepare, support, encourage, and retain newly hired teachers of  
11 color; and
- 12 • Recommendations and methods to increase teacher workforce diversity in the state's  
13 urban school districts.

14 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
15 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a  
16 chairperson.

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

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

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

22 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters  
23 for said commission; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
25 House of Representatives no later than January 28, 2020, and said commission shall expire on  
26 March 28, 2020.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative commission whose  
2 purpose it would be to study and make recommendations for encouraging more persons of color  
3 to enter the field of education, and who would report back to the House of Representatives on or  
4 before January 28, 2020, and whose life would expire on March 28, 2020.

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