

2019 -- H 5607

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS "GROWING
TOURISM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND"**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island hosted 24.8 million visitors in 2017, and that year, the tourism
2 economy reached \$6.5 billion dollars in our state; and

3 WHEREAS, That year, 13.1 percent of all jobs in the state were sustained by the tourism
4 economy, with 83,913 jobs supported by the industry either directly, indirectly, or through
5 induced impacts; and

6 WHEREAS, Visitor spending has increased 23% over the past five years; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourism generated \$775 million in state and local taxes in 2017, offsetting
8 the average Rhode Island household burden by \$1890 per household; and

9 WHEREAS, Tourism is and continues to be an essential component to the economic
10 stability, success, and growth of our state; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the special legislative commission to be known as "Growing Tourism
12 in the State of Rhode Island" be and the same is hereby created consisting of twenty (20)
13 members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, not
14 more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
15 one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, or designee; one
16 of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, or designee; one of
17 whom shall be the President and CEO of the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors
18 Bureau, or designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of Discover Newport, or
19 designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Block Island Tourism Council, or

1 designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the South County Tourism Council, or
2 designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Tourism
3 Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Warwick Department of Tourism,
4 Culture and Development, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chair of the Providence
5 Tourism Council, or designee; three (3) of whom shall be representatives of the Providence,
6 South County, and Newport private sector tourism, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
7 one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC), or designee;
8 one of whom shall be a representative of Rhode Island's recreation industry, to be appointed by
9 the Speaker; one of whom shall be a representative of Rhode Island's retail industry, to be
10 appointed by the Speaker.

11 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
12 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
13 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
14 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
15 which is entitled to the appointment, consents to the member of the general public.

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to examine and focus on:

17 Creating and promoting policies which enhance a coordinated tourism and visitor
18 industry within the state;

19 Utilizing a statewide coordination of efforts and information to evaluate modifying the
20 state's tourism management and oversight structure;

21 Exploring the economic impact of environmental quality and climate change for
22 developing a sustainable tourism industry;

23 Exploring the potential vocational education courses relative to the tourism industry;

24 Exploring current and future methods to enhance medical tourism;

25 Exploring a third-party hosting platform on the industry's strategic planning and impact
26 on state and local policy;

27 Developing a comprehensive and unified metrics framework for the state and local
28 regions in order to make evaluations for all future state government tourism investments;

29 Re-evaluating the formula used for the distribution of the Hotel and Lodging tax in order
30 to reflect a 21st century tourism model that strategically fits the state's tourism management
31 structures and provides equitably;

32 Examining the rules and operations of all Rhode Island Airports in supporting the tourism
33 economy; and

34 Analyzing and evaluating the impact, sustainability, and expansion of international

1 tourism on Rhode Island's tourism economy.

2 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
3 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

11 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
12 House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2021, and said commission shall expire on
13 March 5, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS "GROWING
TOURISM IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND"

- 1 This resolution would create a twenty (20) member "Growing Tourism in the State of
- 2 Rhode Island" commission whose purpose it would be to examine, evaluate and provide
- 3 recommendations to manage and grow Rhode Island's tourism economy, and who would report
- 4 back to the House no later than January 5, 2021, and whose life would expire on March 5, 2021.

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