

2022 -- H 8296

=====  
LC006051  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

---

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RHODE ISLAND'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Kislak, Cortvriend, Donovan, Craven,  
Kazarian, Casimiro, Handy, Noret, and Ajello

Date Introduced: May 27, 2022

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
2 consisting of eleven (11) members: one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, appointed by  
3 the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a member of the House, appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Environmental  
5 Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Old Growth  
6 Tree Society, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island  
7 Natural History Survey, or designee; one of whom shall be the State Director of The Nature  
8 Conservancy in Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the  
9 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of  
10 the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, or designee; one of whom shall be a certified arborist, to be  
11 appointed by the Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator; and two (2) of whom shall be  
12 members of local land trusts, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and  
13 one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

14           In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study  
15 commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing  
16 authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

17           The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and review of  
18 Rhode Island's old growth forests and provide recommendations for the preservation and  
19 protection of these natural habitats. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

1           • Identify and map the locations of Rhode Island’s old growth forests, rare forest  
2 ecosystems, and if possible, areas of most environmentally sensitive land and/or water worthy of  
3 preservation in its natural condition;

4           • Formulate advisory policies and plans to protect the state’s old growth forests, rare  
5 forest ecosystems, and areas of most environmentally sensitive land;

6           • Provide advisory policies, plans, and recommendations related to the preservation and  
7 protection of the state’s old growth forests; and

8           • Surveying forests scheduled for forestry operations on state and municipally owned  
9 land that includes timber harvesting, cutting, girdling, burning, or any alterations to the forest  
10 before the forestry operation takes place to determine if there are any old growth forests in the  
11 area that could be threatened by the forestry operation. If an old growth forest is found, the  
12 commission may make advisory policies, plans, or recommendations for the old growth forest to  
13 be protected and not disturbed by the forestry operation; and

14           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
15 the call of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, and shall organize and select a  
16 chairperson or co-chairpersons from among the members.

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

24           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
25 Senate and House on or before August 18, 2023, and said commission shall expire on December  
26 31, 2023.

=====  
LC006051  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RHODE ISLAND'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

\*\*\*

- 1           Creates an 11 member commission whose purpose would be to study and make
- 2   recommendations regarding RI's old growth forests, and who would report back to the House and
- 3   Senate by August 18, 2023, and would expire on December 31, 2023.

=====  
LC006051  
=====