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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY R.I.G.L. 39-14.1, THE PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, AND THE IMPACT OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ON THE MARKET FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Introduced By: Representative John G. Edwards

Date Introduced: June 05, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

1 WHEREAS, The Public Motor Vehicle Act, R.I.G.L. 39 – 14.1 was enacted in 2002.
2 Since said enactment there have been many developments in the public vehicle for hire industry.
3 These include innovations in services and technologies that have affected the public vehicle
4 transportation services industry in several ways, including the types of vehicles available to
5 passengers, booking methods, payment options, and most recently the introduction of smart
6 phones and the ability to use a software application, or app, to arrange for a ride between a driver
7 and a passenger. These innovations have led to a dramatic increase in the choices and options
8 available to the riding public, including many different categories of public vehicles for hire.
9 These different categories now include luxury, limousine, standard taxi, low cost sedans and ride
10 sharing services. Since 2002, there has not been a comprehensive review of the Public Motor
11 Vehicles Act and the impact of innovative technology to these different categories of public
12 vehicles for hire, and to the economy of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby finds that in order to provide the
14 citizens of Rhode Island with the highest level and availability of transportation services, at the
15 most competitive and affordable pricing, while preserving the safety of all passengers and drivers,
16 it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive review and study of the Act and any amendments
17 thereto; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
19 consisting of eleven (11) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of

1 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
2 Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two (2)
3 from the same political party, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the
4 Administrator of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, or designee, to be appointed by the
5 Governor; one of whom shall be a member of the New England Livery Association, to be
6 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of the Property
7 Casualty Insurers of America, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a
8 representative of the taxi industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one of whom
9 shall be a representative of the innovative technology industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of
10 the House.

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and analysis of
12 the status of the Public Motor Vehicle Act, R.I.G.L. 39-14.1, including:

- 13 • Study and analysis of the impact of innovative technologies including online enabled
14 applications or smart phones to connect passengers with drivers;
- 15 • Study and analysis of new options available to customers, such as ride-sharing services;
- 16 • Review all statutes, rules or regulations pertaining to the Act, as well as a review and
17 analysis of any and all data which may assist the commission in determining whether it would be
18 in the best interest of the citizens of Rhode Island to amend, alter or repeal the Act in any form
19 whatsoever.

20 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
21 the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select
22 a chairperson.

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

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 General Assembly no later than March 31, 2015, and said commission shall expire on May 31,
3 2015.

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