

2016 -- H 8039

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LC005498
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY FISCAL IMPACT OF
THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF CERTAIN SCHOOLS ON HOST COMMUNITIES**

Introduced By: Representative James N. McLaughlin

Date Introduced: April 06, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of eleven (11) members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
3 House of Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed
4 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Commissioner of
5 Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairperson of the
6 Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be
7 representatives from the Division of Taxation, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
8 two (2) of whom shall be the finance director or chief financial officer of cities or towns where
9 mayoral academies, charter schools, or for-profit schools are located therein, to be appointed by
10 the Speaker of the House.

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 which
15 is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general public.

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the
17 ramifications and fiscal impacts that the purchase or rental of real estate, or the construction or
18 expansion of new or existing mayoral academy, charter school, and for-profit school facilities
19 have on cities or towns where the schools are located or proposed to be located. This study will

1 include an analysis of the fiscal impact that the tax exempt status of these schools owning or
2 renting property has and will have on the host communities, the statutes and regulations
3 governing taxation, the tax exempt status of the real estate holdings of these schools, and the
4 possible use of payments in lieu of taxes agreements for host cities and towns where these schools
5 are located.

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

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

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

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
17 House of Representatives no later than February 7, 2017, and said commission shall expire on
18 May 7, 2017.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY FISCAL IMPACT OF
THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF CERTAIN SCHOOLS ON HOST COMMUNITIES

1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative study commission
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of fiscal impact of the purchase or
3 rental of land, or the construction or expansion of new or existing mayoral academies, charter
4 schools, or other for-profit school facilities have on cities or towns where these schools are
5 located or proposed to be located. This study would include an analysis of the fiscal impact that
6 the tax exempt status of these schools owning property has and will have on the host community,
7 and possible use of payments in lieu of taxes agreements for such facilities.

8 This commission would report back to the House of Representatives no later than
9 February 7, 2017, and would expire on May 7, 2017.

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