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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF
ENACTING A LINE ITEM VETO, POTENTIAL RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS FOR A GOVERNOR RUNOFF, AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR**

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, O'Brien, Costantino, and Tobon

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of twelve (12) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
3 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
4 the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island Senate, not
5 more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
6 one of whom shall be an attorney with a background in Rhode Island Constitutional jurisprudence
7 and research, with a background in economics, finance and/or political science, to be appointed
8 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a retired educator from a public institution of
9 higher education in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom
10 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants, or designee;
11 one of whom shall be a retired judge of the Rhode Island Judiciary, to be appointed by the
12 President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a former general officer of the State of Rhode
13 Island, to be appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate; one of
14 whom shall be a representative of a large Rhode Island public service employer that has
15 significant knowledge of the state budget process, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

16 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
17 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
18 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu

1 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
2 is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general public.

3 The purpose of the commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the policy,
4 political, and fiscal considerations of a line item veto in Rhode Island, including but not limited to
5 an examination of the constitutional balance of power between the three branches of government
6 in Rhode Island post- separation of powers, the roles of the Rhode Island legislative and
7 executive branches of government in a modern society and economy, including the relative
8 relationship and responsiveness of each branch to the public pursuant to their constitutional
9 duties, obligations and responsibilities. The commission shall also examine the cost and benefits,
10 both political and fiscal, to a constitutional amendment that would require a run-off election for
11 Governor when one candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast in a general election.

12 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
13 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, to organize and select co-
14 chairpersons from among the legislators, one co-chairperson from each chamber of the
15 legislature.

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 General Assembly no later than April 5, 2018, and said commission shall expire on May 7, 2018.

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