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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO EXPLORE CONSTRUCTION
OF A VETERANS' OF INVISIBLE WOUNDS MEMORIAL**

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Azzinaro, McLaughlin, Vella-Wilkinson, and
Abney

Date Introduced: June 01, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, As a state, we are thankful that the core ideals of our free nation are still
2 preserved due to the noble sacrifices that veterans have and continue to make; and

3 WHEREAS, When these brave-hearted men and women, who have honorably served this
4 great nation return home, they oftentimes continue to battle the invisible wounds of war; and

5 WHEREAS, While advances in medicine and technology have made it possible for more
6 of our soldiers to return safely home, the stress of modern warfare, compounded by longer
7 periods of deployment and frequent redeployment, has left our warriors with invisible wounds to
8 their mental health in the form of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and
9 substance-use issues; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 20 veterans commit
11 suicide each day; and

12 WHEREAS, The service and sacrifice of these veterans, who continue to carry the
13 burden of invisible wounds, should never be forgotten; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
15 consisting of seven (7) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of
16 Representatives, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of
17 whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the House minority
18 leader; one of whom shall be the Director of the office of Veterans Affairs, or designee, one of
19 whom shall be the Adjutant General of the Rhode Island National Guard, or designee; one of

1 whom shall be a member of the general public who is a Rhode Island resident and veteran, to be
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one of whom shall be a member of the general public
3 who is a family member of an affected veteran, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

4 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
5 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
6 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
7 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
8 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

9 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
10 recommendations for all aspects pertaining to the creation of a permanent Veterans' of Invisible
11 Wounds Memorial at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island.

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 organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a
14 chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original
15 appointment.

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
23 House of Representatives no later than March 15, 2018, and said commission shall expire on June
24 15, 2018.

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