

2018 -- S 3001

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELDERLY ABUSE AND FINANCIAL
EXPLOITATION**

Introduced By: Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne

Date Introduced: June 22, 2018

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Approximately one in ten Americans over age 60 have experienced some
2 form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year.
3 One study estimated that only one in fourteen cases of abuse are reported to authorities; and

4 WHEREAS, One in five Americans over 65 has been victimized by a financial fraud and
5 a national study determined that financial exploitation costs seniors at least \$2.9 billion annually;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Rhode Island to convene an Elder
8 Abuse and Exploitation Task Force to study the prevalence and impact of elder abuse and
9 exploitation in this state; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That a special task force be and the same is hereby created consisting of
11 nine (9) members: two (2) of whom shall be a members of the Rhode Island Senate, to be
12 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a member of the public with
13 significant experience in elder law, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom
14 shall be a representative from an agency that works directly with victims of elder abuse and/or
15 financial exploitation, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a
16 member of law enforcement, to be appointed by the Governor; one of whom shall be the
17 Lieutenant Governor, or designee; one of whom shall be a member with significant experience
18 working on issues related to elder abuse and/or financial exploitation, to be appointed by the
19 Attorney General; one of whom shall be the Director of the Division of Elderly Affairs, or

1 designee; and one of whom shall be the State Director of the AARP-RI, or designee.

2 The purpose of said task force shall be to study the prevalence and impact of elder abuse
3 and exploitation in this state and to make recommendations on policies and legislation to
4 effectively address the issue impacting seniors and other vulnerable adults.

5 The initial appointments shall be made no later than August 1, 2018.

6 Members of the task force shall meet at the call of the President of the Senate, and
7 organize and shall select a chairperson, a secretary, and any other officers deemed necessary.

8 Vacancies in said task force shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

10 Members of the task force shall meet monthly, or more often at the call of the chairperson
11 or upon petition of a majority of the task force members.

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

15 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
16 suitable quarters for said task force; and be it further,

17 RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
18 Senate no later than February 5, 2019, and said task force shall expire on June 30, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELDERLY ABUSE AND FINANCIAL
EXPLOITATION

- 1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special task force whose purpose it would
- 2 be to study elderly abuse and financial exploitation, and who would report back to the Senate no
- 3 later than February 5, 2019, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2019.

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