

2021 -- S 1004

LC003119

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO ANALYZE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ruggiero, Goodwin, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: July 01, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of eleven (11) members: four (4) of whom shall be members of the Senate, three (3) of
3 whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by
4 the Minority Leader; one of whom shall be a President of a Rhode Island based hospital network,
5 to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the President of the Association of
6 Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be a
7 city/town Council President representing a municipality with fewer than 40,000 residents, to be
8 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a city/town Council President
9 representing a municipality with more than 40,000 residents, to be appointed by the President of
10 the Senate; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of a community based organization that
11 advocates for sustainable land use, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom
12 shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, or designee; and
13 one of whom shall be a tenured professor at a Rhode Island based institution of higher education
14 with an academic background in economics and/or land use, to be appointed by the President of
15 the Senate. Members of said commission shall be individuals with relevant expertise in and/or
16 experience with statute, policy and/or practices related to tax exemption of property.

17 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
18 commission, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in
19 place of a legislator, provided that the Senate President or the Minority Leader of the political

1 party that is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general
2 public.

3 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the
4 identification and treatment of tax exempt properties in Rhode Island, including, but not limited
5 to, a review of Rhode Island General Laws and municipal ordinances governing exemptions and
6 payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) programs in Rhode Island and other states, and to provide
7 recommendations to ensure the treatment of property owned by tax exempt entities is transparent,
8 consistent, equitable and of benefit to all Rhode Islanders.

9 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
10 the call of the President of the Senate who shall appoint a Chair of the commission.

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

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

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
19 Senate no later than April 1, 2022 and said commission shall expire on June 30, 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
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RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to analyze and make recommendations regarding tax exempt
3 properties in the State of Rhode Island, and who would report back to the Senate no later than
4 April 1, 2022, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2022.

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