

2022 -- H 7562

=====
LC004865
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY PROSPECTIVE
IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENTS' ACCESSIBILITY TO MEDICAL CARE FROM
LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, Phillips, Price, Barros, Solomon, and Cassar

Date Introduced: February 18, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, Naturopathic medicine is used for a wide range of health issues and practice
2 in settings ranging from private clinics to integrative medical centers, urgent care clinics and
3 hospitals; and

4 WHEREAS, Naturopathic physicians are trained as primary care providers who diagnose,
5 treat and manage patients with acute and chronic conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, Naturopathic medicine utilizes diverse techniques which includes modern
7 and traditional, scientific and empirical methods, addressing disease and dysfunction at the level
8 of body, mind and spirit; and

9 WHEREAS, Naturopathic physicians are often successful at treating chronic conditions
10 that don't respond to conventional medicine; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
12 consisting of eleven (11) members: five (5) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
13 House of Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed
14 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Health Insurance
15 Commissioner, or designee; one of whom shall be the Managing Director of Blue Cross Blue
16 Shield of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Officer of United
17 Healthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
18 the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians, or designee; one of whom shall be a
19 Naturopathic Physician practicing in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

1 and one of whom shall be the Chairman of Lifespan Board of Directors, or designee.

2 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
3 commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing
4 authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

5 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
6 recommendations for a prospective pathway to making patients' treatment accessibility with
7 naturopathic physicians more affordable through inclusion in HMO networks.

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
19 House of Representatives no later than February 21, 2023, and said commission shall expire on
20 May 21, 2023.

=====
LC004865
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY PROSPECTIVE
IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENTS' ACCESSIBILITY TO MEDICAL CARE FROM
LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

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 prospective improvements in
3 patients accessibility to medical care from licensed naturopathic physicians, and who would
4 report back to the House of Representatives no later than February 21, 2023, and whose life
5 would expire on May 21, 2023.

=====
LC004865
=====