

2022 -- H 8375

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LC006188
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SOLAR PANELS ON INTER-STATE
HIGHWAYS

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Corvese, Blazejewski, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: June 24, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Solar energy utilization in highway infrastructure around the country has
2 been increasing in recent years due in part to several advantages for this type of energy
3 development including the use of existing electrical infrastructure already aligned with major
4 highways, secured boundaries, and easy maintenance access; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
6 consisting of seven (7) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of
7 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director
8 of the Department of Transportation, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the
9 Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairperson
10 of the Public Utilities Commission, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Director of the
11 Office of Energy Resources, or designee.

12 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
13 commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a
14 member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator; provided that, the majority leader or
15 the minority leader of the political party which is entitled to the appointment consent to the
16 member of the general public.

17 The purpose of said commission shall be to study and provide recommendations for the
18 most appropriate placement of solar panels on median strips on interstate highways and route
19 146, carports at state parking lots, and such other locations as the commission determines. The

1 commission shall seek placements which would provide and generate maximum returns on the
2 investment as well as producing substantial amounts of energy.

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

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

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

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

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

13 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
14 House of Representatives on or before April 11, 2023, and said commission shall expire on July
15 11, 2023.

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