

2024 -- H 7361

LC004575

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY AND
PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMEDIES TO THE EROSION OF RHODE
ISLAND BEACHES

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Fogarty, Hull, Tanzi, Spears, Cotter,
Cortvriend, Carson, McEntee, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: January 31, 2024

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is officially nicknamed the "Ocean State" and has a tidal
2 shoreline on Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean of more than 400 miles and more than 30
3 islands within the bay; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has eight state beaches: Charlestown Breachway, East Beach
5 in Charlestown, East Matunuck in South Kingstown, Misquamicut in Westerly, Roger Wheeler,
6 Scarborough North and South, and Salty Brine in Narragansett; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2022, visitor spending in Rhode Island totaled \$5.3 billion and sustained
8 more than 80,000 jobs, a large portion of which is derived from and influenced by the State's
9 beaches and coastline; and

10 WHEREAS, The harsh reality is that Rhode Island's beaches are eroding and are in
11 urgent need of protection and restoration; and

12 WHEREAS, Beach restoration involves various methods including;

13 • The placement of sand on an eroded beach for the purposes of restoring it as a
14 recreational beach and providing storm protection for upland properties and the preservation of
15 erosion hot spots; and

16 • Dune stabilization techniques including: importing dredged sand from offshore to build
17 up the dune, planting grasses or other plants to secure the sand, and installing fencing along the
18 dune on both the seaward and landward sides of the dune; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders care deeply about the quality of life and income derived

1 from our beautiful coastline; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
3 consisting of nine (9) members; four (4) of whom shall be members of the House, not more than
4 three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom
5 shall be the Director of the RI Department of Environmental Management, or designee; one of
6 whom shall be the executive director of the Costal Resources Management Council, or designee;
7 one of whom shall be the Dean of Biological Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, or
8 designee; one of whom shall be the Commander of the New England Army Corps of Engineers,
9 or designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Misquamicut Business
10 Association, or designee.

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

16 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and cost
17 analysis in order to provide recommendations for remedies to the erosion of Rhode Island
18 beaches.

19 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
20 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

21 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.
22 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

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

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

28 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
29 House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2025, and said commission shall expire on
30 March 5, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
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PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMEDIES TO THE EROSION OF RHODE
ISLAND BEACHES

- 1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations for remedies to the erosion of
- 3 Rhode Island beaches, and who would report back to the House no later than January 5, 2025, and
- 4 whose life would expire on March 5, 2025.

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