

2024 -- H 7627

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LC005109  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
UTILIZING FEDERAL TITLE IV DOLLARS TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE  
ENROLLMENT IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AT RIC

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Noret, Serpa, Solomon, and Cruz

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, In 1980, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Reform Act of 1980  
2 (Public Law 96-272) was passed; and

3           WHEREAS, This Act created Title IV-E that allows state child welfare agencies to claim  
4 and utilize federal financial participation (FFP) funds to augment training and educating of state  
5 public child welfare workers; and

6           WHEREAS, The Act encouraged state/college partnerships to educate and elevate the  
7 professional skills of social case workers, casework supervisors, child protective investigators,  
8 child protective investigator supervisors and those interested in working in public child welfare  
9 agencies; and

10           WHEREAS, BSW/MSW education funded by Title IV-E of Social Security Act ("Title  
11 IV-E Child Welfare Education") is an important incentive to encourage social workers to fill  
12 critical vacancies serving Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and families; and

13           WHEREAS, Title IV-E Child Welfare Education aims to demonstrate a robust training  
14 partnership between public college social work programs and public child welfare agencies to  
15 recruit, develop and retain an educated, professional, stable, and committed workforce; now,  
16 therefore be it

17           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
18 consisting of twelve (12) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of  
19 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom shall be members

1 of SEIU Local 580, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the  
2 Director of Admissions at Rhode Island College, or designee; one of whom shall be the Dean of  
3 the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College, or designee; one of whom shall be a member  
4 of the RIC School of Social Work, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom  
5 shall be a Senior Advisor to the Governor, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of  
6 whom shall be the Director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), or  
7 designee; one of whom shall be a member of staff at the Department of Children, Youth, and  
8 Families (DCYF), to be appointed by the Director of DCYF; one of whom shall be the Director of  
9 Workforce Development at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), or  
10 designee; and one of whom shall be the Director of Adult Programs for the Office of Post-  
11 Secondary Education, or designee.

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

17 The purpose of said commission shall be to study the feasibility of utilizing Federal Title  
18 IV-E dollars to leverage and help enroll and graduate students in the field of social work in a state  
19 college (Rhode Island College) in order to ultimately serve a Rhode Island state agency (DCYF).  
20 The goal of providing this funding is to attract and retain front line staff for the Department of  
21 Children, Youth and Families.

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

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

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

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

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

1           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 Office of the Governor and the House of Representative no later than October 1, 2024, and said  
3 commission shall expire on January 24, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This resolution would create a twelve (12) member special legislative study commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to study the feasibility of utilizing Federal Title IV-E dollars to  
3 leverage and help enroll and graduate students in the field of social work, and who would report  
4 back to the House and Governor no later than October 1, 2024, and would expire on January 24,  
5 2025.

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