

2024 -- H 7627 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC005109/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**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 welfares;
9 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 thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of
19 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the

1 Speaker of the House; two (2) of whom shall be members of SEIU Local 580, be appointed by
2 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of Admissions at Rhode Island
3 College, or designee; one of whom shall be the Dean of the School of Social Work at Rhode
4 Island College, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of the RIC School of Social Work,
5 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a Senior Advisor to the
6 Governor, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the
7 Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), or designee; one of whom shall be a
8 member of staff at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), to be appointed by
9 the Director of DCYF; one of whom shall be the Director of Workforce Development at the
10 Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), or designee; and one of whom shall
11 be the Director Adult Programs for the Office of Post-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 that
15 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

31 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
32 Office of the Governor and the House of Representative no later than February 11, 2025, and said

1 commission shall expire on April 9, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
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ENROLLMENT IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AT RIC

1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) 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 February 11, 2025, and would expire on April 9,
5 2025.

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