

2019 -- S 1041

LC002945

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE MERITS AND  
FEASIBILITY OF A PYROLYSIS OR GASIFICATION FACILITY IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Sosnowski, Archambault, Ciccone, and Conley

Date Introduced: June 28, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is actively striving toward the ambitious greenhouse gas  
2 reductions goals set by the Climate Change Coordinating Council; and

3 WHEREAS, Pyrolysis refers to heating of biomass to a high temperature, but with no  
4 supply of air and is an effective way to convert biomass, especially waste, agricultural waste and  
5 such, into useful fuels and products. It can also be used to convert plastic to oil; and

6 WHEREAS, Gasification plants produce significantly lower quantities of air pollutants;  
7 now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
9 consisting of seven (7) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, to be  
10 appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island  
11 Department of Environmental Management (DEM), or designee; one of whom shall be the  
12 Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration (DOA), or designee; one of whom  
13 shall be the Rhode Island Secretary of Commerce, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
14 Executive Director of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), or designee;  
15 and one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Office of Energy Resources (OER), or  
16 designee.

17 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
18 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
19 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in place

1 of a legislator.

2 The purpose of said commission shall be to study the merits and feasibility of developing  
3 a pyrolysis or gasification facility in the state.

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

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

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

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

12 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
13 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the commission shall issue a report on its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Senate no later than March 7, 2020, and said commission shall expire on  
16 May 7, 2020.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This resolution would create a seven (7) member special legislative commission whose  
2 purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the merits and feasibility of a pyrolysis or  
3 gasification facility in the State of Rhode Island, and who would report back to the Senate on or  
4 before March 7, 2020, and whose life would expire on May 7, 2020.

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