WHEREAS, Rhode Island is the smallest state in terms of its geographical surface land area, which makes this surface land area an important resource; and

WHEREAS, It is important for Rhode Island to address issues of land use, preservation, development, and regulation in a way that properly manages the use of this important resource to insure and promote land use which allows for both growth and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island, like most of the nation, is facing a shortage of affordable housing; and land use regulations, particularly zoning ordinances, have a major impact on the availability of affordable and decent housing; and

WHEREAS, The implications of global warming and climate change on land use planning are becoming more consequential to our state each year; and

WHEREAS, At this time, it is appropriate for the General Assembly to undertake a broad based review of comprehensive land use in this state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a special joint commission be and the same is hereby created consisting of twenty-three (23) members: one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island Housing Board of Commissioners, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be employed with the Division of Statewide Planning, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative of the real estate industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative of an environmental group, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a municipal planner, to be
appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be an attorney with land use expertise,
to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; six (6) of whom shall be members of the public,
who, whenever possible, shall be competent by training or experience in the fields of solar
ergy, offshore wind power, civil engineering, land surveying, commerce, or who are
representatives from Save the Bay, the Department of Environmental Management, the Audubon
Society of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, or Grow
Smart Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a
municipal planner, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be an
attorney with land use expertise, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom
shall be a representative of the building trades industry, to be appointed by the President of the
Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of an environmental group, to be appointed by the
President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative from a city zoning board, to be
appointed by the President of the Senate; and six (6) of whom shall be members of the public,
who, whenever possible, shall be competent by training or experience in the fields of solar
energy, offshore wind power, civil engineering, land surveying, commerce, or who are
representatives from Save the Bay, the department of environmental management, the Audubon
Society of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, or Grow
Smart Rhode Island, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the entire
area of land use, preservation, development, and regulation, and to undertake a broad based
review of comprehensive land use in the state, and provide recommendations, based upon this
study and review, that will enable the state to ensure and promote land use which allows for both
growth and sustainability.

Forthwith upon the passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet
at the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and organize and shall each
select a co-chairperson.

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
General Assembly on or before April 30, 2021, and said commission shall expire on June 30, 2021.

LC004838

LC004838