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LC004734/SUB A/2
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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
CREATING A STATE REINSURANCE AGENCY TO PROVIDE HOMEOWNERS RELIEF
FROM THE CURRENT FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, O'Brien, Winfield, Costantino, and Craven

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

1 WHEREAS, Many Rhode Island property owners on the coast or in other flood-plain
2 areas are concerned about not being able to afford dramatically higher premiums on their
3 insurance rates; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
5 consisting of nine (9) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island House
6 of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
7 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
8 Business Regulations, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island
9 Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
10 the Rhode Island Joint Reinsurance Association (RIJRA), or designee; one of whom shall be the
11 Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or designee; one of
12 whom shall be a member of the property and casualty insurance industry, to be appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be a member of a reinsurance industry trade
14 organization, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

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

1 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and analysis of
2 the effects natural disasters have on property insurance costs and the feasibility of creating a state
3 reinsurance agency with the goal of providing homeowners' relief/alternatives/stability from the
4 current federal-flood insurance program.

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
15 House of Representatives no later than January 6, 2015, and said commission shall expire on
16 March 6, 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study the effects natural disasters have on property insurance costs
- 3 and the feasibility of creating a state reinsurance agency, and who would report back to the House
- 4 no later than January 6, 2015, and whose life would expire on March 6, 2015.

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