

**2019 -- S 1042**

LC002937

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S  
EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA**

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Conley, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: June 28, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           RESOLVED, That a special task force be and the same is hereby created consisting of  
2 nine (9) members: nine (9) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than seven (7)  
3 from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The chairs of the  
4 Senate Finance Committee and Senate Education Committee shall serve as ex-officio members.

5           In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
6 commission, a legislative study commission, or any task force created by a General Assembly  
7 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
8 of a legislator.

9           The purpose of said task force shall be to review and recommend changes or  
10 modifications to the implementation of the State's education funding formula established pursuant  
11 to the Rhode Island General Laws.

12           The task force shall assess whether the current formula is meeting the needs of students,  
13 districts, and taxpayers and shall include, but not be limited to, review of the core principles of  
14 the education equity and property tax relief act, which are as follows:

15           1. All children should have access to an adequate and meaningful education regardless of  
16 their residence or economic means;

17           2. An education funding system should treat property taxpayers equitably, limit the  
18 portion of school budgets financed by property taxes, and establish sufficient cost controls on  
19 spending;

1           3. The state should ensure that its education funding structure adequately reflects the  
2 different needs of students, and responds to educational inequities among the state's school  
3 districts; and

4           4. The state education funding system should provide a predictable amount and source of  
5 funding to ensure stability in the funding of education aid.

6           The task force shall identify options to fund the formula and related impacts to local  
7 property tax levies and review the appropriate level of funding by the state and local  
8 communities.

9           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the task force shall meet at the  
10 call of the President of the Senate and organize. The President of the Senate shall select a  
11 chairperson from among its members.

12           Vacancies in said task force shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

13           The membership of said task force shall receive no compensation for their services.

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

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

19           RESOLVED, That the task force shall issue a report on its findings and recommendations  
20 to the Senate no later than January 2, 2020, and said task force shall expire on January 5, 2021.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S  
EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA

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1           This resolution would create an nine (9) member special task force whose purpose it  
2 would be to make a comprehensive study of Rhode Island's Education Funding Formula and who  
3 would report on its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than January 2, 2020,  
4 and at least bi-annually thereafter, and said task force shall expire on January 5, 2021.

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