

2011 -- H 5175

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
TO MONITOR THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL RACE
TO THE TOP FUNDS ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RECIPIENTS**

Introduced By: Representatives Tomasso, Walsh, Valencia, Ajello, and Costa

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, Race to the Top is a four billion dollar (\$4,000,000,000) federal grant
2 program authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has been awarded
4 seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) in federal Race to the Top funds; and

5 WHEREAS, In accordance with the RIDE's successful grant application, the state of
6 Rhode Island shall receive a seventy-five million dollar (\$75,000,000) grant over four (4) years,
7 an amount to be equally divided between RIDE and local education agencies; and

8 WHEREAS, In accordance with its successful grant application, RIDE has developed a
9 distribution formula for the grant funds fixing how the funds shall be spent; and

10 WHEREAS, The local educational agencies, although appreciative of their share of the
11 thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) in federal funds, have expressed
12 concerns that the receipt of these funds may result in an increase in their funding obligations;
13 now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
15 consisting of fifteen (15) members: six (6) of whom shall be members of the House of
16 Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
17 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and
18 Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island
19 School Superintendents' Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of

1 the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom shall be the
2 President of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, or designee; one of whom shall
3 be the President of the Rhode Island Parent-Teacher Association, or designee; one of whom shall
4 be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of
5 whom shall be a designee of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council; one of whom shall be
6 the President of the National Education Association of Rhode Island, or designee; and one of
7 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health
8 Professionals, or designee.

9 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
10 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
11 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
12 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
13 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to monitor the implementation and use of the
15 Race to the Top funds and any resulting additional costs, if any, to municipalities and local
16 education departments in furthering the plans and goals of the Race to the Top program and
17 further, to identify the potential impact on educational programs.

18 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
19 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a
20 chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original
21 appointment.

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

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

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

28 The term of the commission shall be five (5) years.

29 RESOLVED, That the commission shall annually report its findings and
30 recommendations to the House of Representatives and said commission shall expire five (5) years
31 after enactment of this resolution.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
TO MONITOR THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL RACE
TO THE TOP FUNDS ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RECIPIENTS

1 This resolution would create an fifteen (15) member special legislative commission
2 whose purpose it would be to study of the necessity, costs, benefits, and the value verses the
3 expense of state and federal mandates on school districts in the State of Rhode Island, and who
4 would be required to report back to the House of Representatives, and whose life would expire
5 five (5) years after enactment of the resolution.

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