

2013 -- H 5198

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LC00801  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Costa, Giarrusso, Chippendale, and Morgan

Date Introduced: January 30, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

1           RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general  
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to  
3 the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the  
4 Constitution for their approval and that it take the place of Article VI, Section 3 which is hereby  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           Section 3. Sessions of general assembly – Compensation of general assembly members  
7 and officers. – There shall be a session of the general assembly at Providence commencing on the  
8 first Tuesday of January in each year. Commencing in January 1995, senators and representatives  
9 shall be compensated at an annual rate of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Commencing in January  
10 1996, the rate of compensation shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living,  
11 as determined by the United States government, during a twelve (12) month period ending in the  
12 immediately preceding year. Commencing in 2003, the president of the senate and the speaker of  
13 the house shall be compensated at an annual rate double that of other senators and representatives.

14           Senators and representatives shall receive the same health insurance benefits as full-time  
15 state employees. Senators, representatives and general office holders shall contribute twenty  
16 percent (20%) towards the premium for health care coverage paid for by the state of Rhode  
17 Island.

18           Senators and representatives shall be reimbursed for traveling expenses in going to and  
19 from the general assembly at the same mileage paid to state workers as of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of

1 December in the year preceding each session.

2 No senator or representative shall be eligible for any pension on account of service in the  
3 general assembly after 1994; provided, however, that those senators and representatives first  
4 elected before 1994 who elect to receive compensation for legislative service in 1995 and  
5 thereafter, at the rate of five dollars for every day of actual attendance and eight cents (.08) per  
6 mile for traveling expenses in going to and returning from the general assembly, for a maximum  
7 of sixty days in any calendar year, shall be eligible for a pension on account of service in the  
8 general assembly after 1994. The amount of such pension shall be based upon the pension  
9 program in effect for legislators on January 1, 1994.

10 The general assembly shall regulate the compensation of the governor of all other  
11 officers, subject to limitations contained in the Constitution.

12 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of  
13 Section 1, Article IV of the Constitution; it is further

14 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors  
15 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the  
16 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for  
17 general officers of the state; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to  
19 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said  
20 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices  
21 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,  
22 or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to  
23 be held as aforesaid; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the town, ward and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
25 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
26 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
27 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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

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1           This resolution would have electors vote on a Rhode Island Constitutional amendment  
2 requiring all senators, representatives and general office holders to pay twenty percent (20%) of  
3 their health insurance premiums.

4           This resolution would take effect upon passage.

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