

2017 -- H 5342

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LC001196
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RESTORATIVE
PRACTICES/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Introduced By: Representatives Barros, Maldonado, Tobon, Cunha, and Shanley

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Growing bodies of national and international research show that using
2 punishment as the response to misbehavior, minor or serious, has long-term negative effects on
3 the victim, offender and their community; and

4 WHEREAS, Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice (RP/RJ) have been shown to
5 be highly effective at building relationships, managing conflict and repairing harm; and

6 WHEREAS, By investing in strong, healthy families, schools and communities, RJ/RP
7 both reduces social services costs and improves the quality of the workforce; and

8 WHEREAS, The practices lower the need to use adversarial, expensive judicial systems
9 by focusing resources on preventative efforts that take place in the community itself, where the
10 problem(s) first began to take root; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
12 consisting of seventeen (17) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Rhode Island
13 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
14 the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a member of a local Police Department, to be
15 appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the Superintendent of the Rhode Island State
16 Police, or designee; one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island Youth Diversionary
17 Program (YDP), to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be a member of the staff of
18 the Department of Children, Youth and Families/Juvenile Correctional Services, with training in
19 RP/RJ, to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be a mental health advocate, to be

1 appointed by the speaker; one of whom shall be a member of Family Services of Rhode Island, to
2 be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the Director of RI ACLU, or designee; one of
3 whom shall be the President of the Providence NAACP, or designee; one of whom shall be the
4 Director of the Latino Policy Institute, or designee; one of whom shall be the Policy Director of
5 HousingWorks RI, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the National
6 Conference on Community Justice, or designee; one of whom shall be a doctor specializing in
7 Adolescent Medicine, to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the Director of the
8 Youth Restoration Project, or designees, and one of whom shall be a member with restorative
9 experience, to be appointed by the Speaker.

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

15 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
16 recommendations to:

17 1. Raise awareness in the Legislature, with local organizations, and in the general public
18 about the power of Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice;

19 2. Raise the visibility of RP/RJ and map out what restorative strategies would benefit the
20 state, and why;

21 3. Monetize both the costs of starting up restorative strategies as well as the potential
22 savings; and

23 4. Make recommendations to fully utilize existing restorative efforts and build
24 collaborations, in order to reduce justice recidivism and other recurring juvenile behavioral
25 problems.

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

28 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 House of Representatives no later than February 7, 2018, and said commission shall expire on
3 April 7, 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RESTORATIVE
PRACTICES/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

1 This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special legislative study
2 commission whose purpose it would be to study and make recommendations on restorative
3 practices/restorative justice in the state, and who would report back to the House no later than
4 February 7, 2018, and whose life would expire on April 7, 2018.

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