

2011 -- H 6306

LC02990

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY WYATT DETENTION FACILITY

Introduced By: Representatives Silva, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: June 28, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to encourage economic development projects
2 which enhance the economic welfare and happiness of the inhabitants of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to ensure that when state laws are enacted to
4 facilitate the financing of, or provide tax benefits to, these projects that the State review the
5 projects to ensure that they yield the public benefit expected; and

6 WHEREAS, Wyatt Detention Facility is operated by the Central Falls Detention Facility
7 Corporation (CFDFC), a non-profit corporation created in 1991 through an Intergovernmental
8 Agreement (IGA) between the United States Marshal Service (Marshal's Service) and the City;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The creation of CFDFC was authorized by R.I. General Law 45-54-1 et seq.
11 (the Detention Center Act), which allows municipalities to pursue economic development through
12 the acquisition or construction of correctional facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, As a tax-exempt entity, Wyatt was expected to make an annual impact fee
14 payment to the City in order to still provide the City with the benefit of economic development -
15 tax revenue for the City - but would do so in the form of an impact fee payment rather than taxes;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The non-payment of impact fees by the Wyatt Detention Facility is a
18 contributing factor to the fiscal challenges facing the City; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That a special joint study commission to be known as the "Special Joint

1 Commission to Study the Wyatt Detention Facility,” is hereby created consisting of seven (7)
2 members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate
3 President; two (2) of whom shall be members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
4 House; city clerk of Central Falls, to be appointed by the Central Falls Receiver; and two (2)
5 experts in the public safety field, one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island
6 Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee; and one of whom shall be the Commissioner
7 of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee.

8 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to an advisory commission, a
9 legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the
10 appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of Wyatt
12 Detention Facility and its operations and finances.

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet and
14 organize and shall select a chairperson.

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

16 The members of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

17 The Wyatt Detention Facility, including but not limited to its Board of Directors and any
18 and all staff, the City of Central Falls, and all departments and agencies of the state shall furnish
19 such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and agents as is
20 deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution. The
21 Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable
22 meeting space for said commission; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report periodically on its findings and will
24 report recommendations to improve the efficiency and financial stability of the organization to
25 the Senate and the House with a copy to the Director of Revenue and the Governor’s Office no
26 later than December 1, 2011, and said commission shall expire on February 1, 2012.

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