

2010 -- H 7057

LC00191

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Serpa, Ajello, Handy, and M Rice

Date Introduced: January 12, 2010

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 22 of the General Laws entitled "GENERAL ASSEMBLY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 7.11

4 PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES

5 **22-7.11-1. Establishment purpose.** -- There is hereby established a permanent oversight  
6 committee empowered to study and oversee the public utilities commission, and/or the division of  
7 public utilities and carriers, on behalf of the citizens of the state of Rhode Island.

8 **22-7.11-2. Permanent committee -- Composition.** -- There is created a permanent joint  
9 committee of the general assembly on public utilities to consist of seven (7) members of the  
10 general assembly: four (4) of whom shall be members of the house of representatives, not more  
11 than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the speaker of the house; and three  
12 (3) of whom shall be members of the senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party,  
13 to be appointed by the president of the senate. Vacancies shall be filled in like manner as the  
14 original appointments. The members of the joint committee on public utilities shall serve as long  
15 as they shall remain members of the house from which they were appointed and until their  
16 successors are duly appointed and qualified.

17 **22-7.11-3. Selection of officers.** -- Upon organization of the joint committee, by majority  
18 vote, one of their members shall be chosen as chairperson, another of their members shall be

1 chosen vice-chairperson, and another of their members shall be chosen as secretary.

2 **22-7.11-4. Duties.** -- It shall be the duty of the joint committee on public utility to consult  
3 and counsel with the public utilities commission, and/or the division of public utilities and  
4 carriers, the federal, state, and municipal agencies and quasi-municipal corporations dealing with  
5 development and operation of public utilities, and to conduct a continuing study and review of the  
6 public utilities requirements, resources, supplies, and methods of acquisition and distribution  
7 throughout the state. It shall also evaluate the reasonableness of the public utility rates and  
8 charges.

9 **22-7.11-5. Reports and recommendations.** -- The joint committee on public utilities  
10 shall from time to time and at least annually report to the general assembly on its findings and the  
11 results of its studies and make any recommendations to the general assembly.

12 **22-7.11-6. Technical assistance.** -- The joint committee on public utilities shall, if it  
13 finds it cannot obtain the proper assistance from available sources, contract for any technical  
14 services that it shall require to effectuate its purposes.

15 **22-7.11-7. References to committee.** -- Each branch of the legislature shall refer to the  
16 joint committee on public utilities all bills and resolutions dealing with or affecting the public  
17 utilities commission.

18 **22-7.11-8. Place of meeting -- Quorum.** -- The joint committee on legislative services  
19 shall provide adequate space in the state house for the use of the joint committee on public  
20 utilities; provided, that the joint committee on public utilities may conduct hearings and hold  
21 meetings elsewhere when doing so will better serve its purposes. A majority in number of the  
22 joint committee on public utilities shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
23 business.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
UTILITIES

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1           This act would create a seven (7) member permanent joint committee whose purpose it  
2 would be to oversee the public utilities commission and/or the division of public utilities and  
3 carriers.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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