

**2016 -- H 8304**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PRESENCE AND  
TREATMENT OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Ackerman, Fogarty, Handy, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: June 08, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1           WHEREAS, The presence of lead in drinking water has long been determined to have  
2 numerous significant negative health impacts, especially in children; and

3           WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency has set the maximum contaminant  
4 level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to  
5 human health even at low exposure levels; and

6           WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to assure the public that the state is taking all  
7 actions to ensure that the risks from lead in the drinking water are addressed, and furthermore,  
8 that compliance with the standards set for safe drinking water in the Lead and Copper Rule  
9 (LCR), 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I, are met and/or exceeded; and

10           WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to cooperate with the Environmental Protection  
11 Agency (EPA) in its oversight responsibilities of state programs and address any deficiencies  
12 Rhode Island may have in our current implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) 40  
13 CFR Part 141 Subpart I; and

14           WHEREAS, It is the policy of the state to provide public health communication and  
15 outreach to residents on the steps taken to reduce exposures to lead and if levels in excess of those  
16 accepted are detected, information relating to what corrective actions are undertaken to correct  
17 the water quality; now therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That a special joint commission be and the same is hereby created and shall  
19 consist of seven (7) members: one of whom shall be a member of the House, to be appointed by

1 the Speaker of the House, who shall serve as co-chair; one of whom shall be a member of the  
2 Senate, to be appointed by the Senate President, who shall serve as co-chair; one of whom shall  
3 be the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics Rhode Island Chapter, or designee; one  
4 of whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode Island Kids Count, or designee; one of whom  
5 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Water Works Association, or designee; one of whom  
6 shall be the Executive Director of the National Utility Contractors Association of Rhode Island,  
7 or designee; and the President of the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, or  
8 designee.

9 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to this commission, the  
10 appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator,  
11 provided that the majority leader or minority leader of the political party which is entitled to the  
12 appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public and the public  
13 member is a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the presence  
15 of lead in the drinking water supplies in the State; the practices and procedures used by the State  
16 to ensure compliance with State and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding lead in drinking  
17 water; the condition of drinking water supply infrastructure and the efforts by drinking water  
18 suppliers to mitigate lead risk in their systems; the financing options available to drinking water  
19 suppliers and property owners to access low cost financing to repair/replace pipes and related  
20 infrastructure.

21 Forthwith upon passage of the resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
22 the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The commission shall have the  
23 authority to organize and form subcommittees, when deemed appropriate by a majority of the  
24 members.

25 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
26 appointment.

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

28 All departments and agencies of the state, including the Departments of Health and  
29 Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, and the University of Rhode  
30 Island's Water Resources Center, shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and  
31 otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the  
32 commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

33 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
34 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 Governor and the General Assembly no later than April 27, 2017, and said commission shall  
3 expire on June 30, 2017.

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