

**2017 -- S 0247 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC001077/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RAW MILK  
REGULATIONS**

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, P Fogarty, Sosnowski, Morgan, and Archambault

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1           WHEREAS, Milk is recognized to be one of the most perfect foods afforded by nature. It  
2 is unique in that its consumption in adequate quantities is essential to the nutritional well-being of  
3 the individual; and

4           WHEREAS, If milk's production and distribution are not properly safeguarded, it may be  
5 instrumental in the transmission of diseases that are infectious to people; and

6           WHEREAS, For the protection of the health and welfare of our citizens, it is the policy of  
7 the State of Rhode Island that the environmental conditions surrounding the production, handling,  
8 transportation, distribution, and sale of milk and milk products shall be to protect the public  
9 health and to provide consumers with products that are identified in such a way as to promote  
10 honesty and fair dealing in the best interests of the consumers; and

11           WHEREAS, There is growing demand from organic food consumers for raw or  
12 unpasteurized milk as a result of claims that it is more nutritious and healthful than pasteurized  
13 milk; and

14           WHEREAS, Rhode Island dairy farmers and consumers could benefit by meeting this  
15 demand, if raw milk production, marketing, sales, and production can be regulated in such a  
16 method as to preserve public health; and

17           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health regulates the availability and use of  
18 raw milk in the state; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as the "Commission to

1 Study Raw Milk Regulations" be and the same is hereby created consisting of nine (9) members:  
2 one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, who shall serve as the chairperson of the  
3 commission, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a  
4 representative of the Department of Health, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of  
5 whom shall be a representative of the Department of Environmental Management's Division of  
6 Agriculture, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative  
7 of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; two (2) of  
8 whom shall be dairy farmers, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall  
9 be a licensed medical doctor with expertise in food borne infectious diseases, to be appointed by  
10 the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be a representative of organic food consumers, to  
11 be appointed by the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be a representative of the  
12 organic food sellers, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

13 The purpose of said commission shall be to review all raw milk regulations and make  
14 recommendations to update and strengthen the governance of the availability and consumption of  
15 raw milk in Rhode Island.

16 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
17 the call of the Chairperson of the commission.

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

19 The commission shall assemble no less than three (3) times, or more often at the call of  
20 the Chairperson, upon written notice of each meeting stating the place, day, and time of the  
21 meeting along with the purpose and/or agenda of the meeting.

22 A quorum of the Commission shall consist of a majority of its membership and the  
23 membership shall receive no compensation for their services.

24 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
25 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or  
26 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
28 President of the Senate no later than January 2, 2018, and said commission shall expire on March  
29 2, 2018.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RAW MILK  
REGULATIONS

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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative study commission to  
2 be known as the "Commission to Study Raw Milk Regulations" and whose purpose it would be to  
3 review all raw milk regulations and make recommendations, and who would report back to the  
4 Senate President no later than January 2, 2018, and whose life would expire on March 2, 2018.

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