

2011 -- S 0796

LC02299

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

PROVIDING FOR BI-PARTISAN PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE
INFORMATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR A VOTE
BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS ON THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIV SECTION 2 OF THE RHODE
ISLAND CONSTITUTION

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Metts, Gallo, Pichardo, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 24, 2011

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Under the terms of Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island
2 Constitution the question “Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the constitution?” may
3 appear on the ballot at the next general election; and

4 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XIV further provides that “Prior to a vote by the
5 qualified electors on the holding of a convention, the general assembly...shall provide for a bi-
6 partisan preparatory commission to assemble information on constitutional questions for the
7 electors” ... now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That upon enactment of a law providing for placing on the ballot at the
9 next general election the question “Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the
10 constitution?” a preparatory commission shall forthwith be created to assemble information on
11 constitutional questions for the electors; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That such preparatory commission shall consist of fourteen (14) members,
13 appointed as herein provided, to serve until the submission of their final report; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint four (4)
15 members of the house of representatives, not more than three (3) of whom shall be from the same
16 political party; the president of the senate shall appoint four (4) senators, no more than three (3)
17 of whom shall be from the same political party; six (6) members of the public, none of whom
18 shall be a member of any political committee, nor holder of any public office, shall be appointed

1 as follows: two (2) by the speaker of the house of representatives; one (1) by the house minority
2 leader; two (2) by the president of the senate; and one (1) by the senate minority leader; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the preparatory commission shall report its findings to the governor,
5 the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the minority leaders of the
6 house and senate, and to the public, through the news media, no later than September 1, 2012.

7 FORTHWITH, upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall
8 meet at the call of the speaker of the house and organize and shall select from among themselves
9 a chairperson. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in like manner as the original
10 appointment.

11 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services but
12 shall be allowed their travel and necessary expenses. The commission may engage such clerical,
13 technical and other assistance as it may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose.

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

17 The speaker of the house is hereby authorized and requested to provide suitable quarters
18 for said commission.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

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- 1 This resolution would provide for a vote by the qualified electors on the holding of a
- 2 constitutional convention and would provide for a preparatory committee.

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