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LC00805/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF THE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN RHODE ISLAND
TOWARD THE CREATION OF A PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Sosnowski, Cool Rumsey, Sheehan, and Goldin

Date Introduced: April 04, 2013

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, It is the long-standing policy of the State of Rhode Island to take cognizance
2 of the interests of life and health among the peoples of the state, to make investigations into the
3 causes of diseases, the prevalence of epidemics and endemics among the people, the sources of
4 mortality, the effect of localities, employments, and all other conditions and circumstances on the
5 public health, do all in its power to ascertain the causes and the best means for the prevention and
6 control of diseases or conditions detrimental to the public health, and adopt proper and expedient
7 measures to prevent and control diseases and conditions detrimental to the public health in the
8 state; and

9 WHEREAS, Population health outcomes in Rhode Island, as in the nation as a whole, are
10 persistently and significantly worse for factors such as infant mortality, prevalence of chronic
11 disease, serious mental illness, and life expectancy than in other developed countries with similar
12 socio-economic resources; and

13 WHEREAS, The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
14 (SAMHSA) and the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA) established the Center
15 for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) to promote the development of integrated primary and
16 behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and
17 substance use conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite these inferior health outcomes, the global cost of medical and other
19 health care services in the State of Rhode Island, as in the nation as a whole, is among the highest

1 in the world and imposes significant burdens on business, government, families, and individuals;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, as in the nation as a whole, global medical and other health
4 care costs are projected to continue rising faster than the gross national product, than family
5 income, and than the rate of inflation, and unless effectively addressed, will soon become
6 unsustainable, threatening the economy, public budgets, and Rhode Islanders' access to
7 affordable care; and

8 WHEREAS, There is a large body of data and other research that demonstrate the
9 potential for improving the public health and population-based outcomes through improving the
10 delivery of and access to primary care that is community-based and patient-centered; and

11 WHEREAS, Improving population-based health outcomes and integrating behavioral
12 health and primary care will result in significant savings by averting the costs incurred by treating
13 chronic diseases, premature death, and diminished productivity at work and school; now
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That a special joint commission be and the same hereby is created and
16 shall consist of twenty-one (21) members: one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, to be
17 appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be a member of the House, to be appointed
18 by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Health or
19 his/her designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare,
20 Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals or his/her designee; one of whom shall be a
21 representative of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO; one of whom shall be a representative of the
22 UNAP; one of whom shall be the President of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island or his/her
23 designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians
24 or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics
25 Rhode Island Chapter or his/her designee; one of whom shall be President of the Rhode Island
26 Academy of Physician Assistants or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the Executive
27 Director of the Rhode Island Medical Society or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the
28 President of the Rhode Island Psychological Association or his/her designee; one of whom shall
29 be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Nurses Association or his/her designee; one of
30 whom shall be the President of the National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island Chapter
31 or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the President/CEO of the Rhode Island Health Centers
32 Association or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the President/CEO of Blue Cross and Blue
33 Shield of Rhode Island or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the Associate Dean of Medicine
34 for Brown University School of Public Health or his/her designee; one of whom shall be

1 President of United Healthcare of Rhode Island or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the
2 CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island or his/her designee; one of whom shall be the
3 President of the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations or his/her
4 designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment
5 Association of Rhode Island or his/her designee.

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

11 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the current
12 status of primary care and behavioral health in Rhode Island; of the available research, data and
13 analyses of the impact of primary care and behavioral health service availability and delivery
14 system architecture on population outcomes; and of the advisability of creating a Primary Care
15 Trust or other mechanism to fund and otherwise support a comprehensive integrated primary care
16 and behavioral health system for all Rhode Islanders. In studying this issue, the commission is
17 encouraged to:

18 (1) Examine trends, current policies, and data pertaining to Rhode Island behavioral
19 health and primary care utilization trends;

20 (2) Identify policy restrictions which currently prevent Rhode Island from integrating
21 primary care and behavioral health systems;

22 (3) Identify and seek ways to remedy gaps in the system, specifically in the area of
23 linkages and connections among providers and agencies in delivering comprehensive,
24 community-based healthcare services;

25 (4) Examine the role of multi payers within the market and potential innovative delivery
26 systems and payment reforms.

27 (5) Examine potential funding and grant opportunities to advance the recommendations
28 of the commission.

29 Forthwith upon passage of the resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
30 the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and organize and shall select,
31 from among the legislators, co-chairpersons.

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

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

34 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,

1 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
2 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

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

5 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
6 Governor, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the General
7 Assembly no later than January 28, 2014, and said commission shall expire on June 13, 2016.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
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TOWARD THE CREATION OF A PRIMARY CARE TRUST

1 This resolution would create a twenty-one (21) member special joint commission whose
2 purpose would be to make a comprehensive study of the current status of primary care and
3 behavioral health services in Rhode Island; of the available research, data and analyses of the
4 impact of primary care and behavioral health service availability and delivery system architecture
5 on population outcomes; and of the advisability of creating a Primary Care Trust or other
6 mechanism to fund and otherwise support a comprehensive integrated primary care and
7 behavioral health system for all Rhode Islanders, and who would report back to the general
8 assembly no later than January 28, 2014, and whose life would expire on June 13, 2016.

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