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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 EXAMINE THE  
ADVISABILITY OF RHODE ISLAND JOINING THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL  
LICENSURE COMPACT

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Miller, and Crowley

Date Introduced: June 29, 2017

Referred To: Placed on Senate Calendar

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island continues to experience a shortage of physicians in several  
2 specialties, particularly in mental and behavioral health; and

3           WHEREAS, Pressures from a growing, aging and increasingly insured population are  
4 calling on Rhode Island to address current and growing demand for physicians to adequately meet  
5 health care needs; and

6           WHEREAS, Rhode Island continues to face difficulties recruiting new physicians to  
7 practice in the state; and

8           WHEREAS, The Federation of State Medical Boards has recognized that many states  
9 also suffer shortages in certain medical specialties; and

10           WHEREAS, The Federation of State Medical Boards and the constituent state licensing  
11 boards, including the Rhode Island Department of Health Board of Medical Licensure and  
12 Discipline, established the Interstate Physician Compact to create a pathway for licensure for  
13 qualified physicians; and

14           WHEREAS, The Federation of State Medical Boards aims to provide a comprehensive  
15 process that complements existing licensing and regulating authority of state boards, ensure the  
16 safety of patients, and enhance the portability of a medical license; and

17           WHEREAS, Rhode Island would retain its licensing and disciplinary authority, but  
18 would agree to share information and processes essential to the licensing and regulation for  
19 physicians who practice across state borders; and

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Assembly passed the Telemedicine Coverage Act  
2 of 2016 to provide a reimbursement mechanism for telemedicine to enable the diagnosis,  
3 consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of patients; and

4           WHEREAS, The appropriate application of telemedicine can enhance medical care and  
5 by streamlining licensure, Rhode Island can provide an advanced solution to the physician  
6 shortage in Rhode Island; and

7           WHEREAS, Telemedicine allows for health care to be delivered right at a patient's home  
8 and without an effective licensure program across state lines, telehealth advancement is impeded;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, The Compact would help expedite the licensure process by allowing static  
11 information, such as medical education, and results of examinations, not have to have primary  
12 source verification again if there has already been primary source verification by the principal  
13 state of licensure, further providing a streamlined approach to licensure; therefore, be it

14          RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
15 consisting of nine (9) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than  
16 two (2) shall from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of  
17 whom shall be the Director of Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the  
18 Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, or  
19 designee; one of whom shall be the Health Insurance Commissioner, or designee; one of whom  
20 shall be the President of the Rhode Island Medical Society, or designee; one of whom shall be a  
21 member of the Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, to be appointed by  
22 the President of the Senate; and one of whom shall be the CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
23 Rhode Island, or designee.

24          The purpose of said commission shall be to examine the advisability of Rhode Island  
25 joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

26          Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
27 the call of the Chair, who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate from among the  
28 commission's membership.

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

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

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

34          The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide

1 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the

3 President of the Senate on or before March 1, 2018, and said commission shall expire on June 1,

4 2018.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE  
ADVISABILITY OF RHODE ISLAND JOINING THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL  
LICENSURE COMPACT

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1           This resolution would create a nine (9) member special legislative commission whose  
2           purpose it would be to examine the advisability of Rhode Island joining the Interstate Medical  
3           Licensure Compact, and who would report back to the President of the Senate on or before March  
4           1, 2018, and said commission would expire on June 1, 2018.

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