

2024 -- S 2331

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, and Cano

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care (the "Commission")
2 was established by a Joint Resolution in 1989, and has been meeting faithfully since that time to
3 develop and recommend policies and legislation that will provide for quality, affordable, and
4 accessible child care and early education services in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Seventy-two percent of Rhode Island children under age six and seventy-
6 seven percent of Rhode Island children ages six to seventeen have all parents in the workforce;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Since the Commission was established, research has shown that
9 participating in high-quality early childhood programs supports children's learning and
10 development, can improve the trajectory of families' lives, and can close achievement gaps that
11 appear prior to kindergarten; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode
13 Island, created by resolution No. 217 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D.
14 1989, and approved July 7, 1989, entitled "Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative
15 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island," amended by resolution No. 219 passed by the
16 General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1991, and approved June 20, 1991, entitled "Joint
17 Resolution In Amendment of The Joint Resolution Creating A Permanent Legislative
18 Commission On Child Care In Rhode Island," further amended by resolution No. 325 passed by
19 the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 1998, and approved by the General Assembly

1 on June 27, 1998, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent
2 Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island," as further amended by resolution No.
3 346 passed by the General Assembly at its January session, A.D. 2007, and approved by the
4 General Assembly on June 13, 2007, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution
5 Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care In Rhode Island," and as further
6 amended by resolution No. 410 passed by the General Assembly on July 6, 2007, entitled "Joint
7 Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative Commission on
8 Child Care in Rhode Island" and as further amended by resolution No. 372 passed by the General
9 Assembly at its January session, A.D. 2010, and approved by the General Assembly on June 25,
10 2010, entitled "Joint Resolution Amending the Joint Resolution Creating a Permanent Legislative
11 Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island" be and the same is hereby amended, as follows:

12 The Commission shall be known as "The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child
13 Care and Early Learning".

14 The purpose of the Commission shall be to review, develop, and recommend policies and
15 legislation to the General Assembly to ensure that Rhode Island has a network of child care and
16 early learning services that are high quality, affordable, accessible, and equitable, and to plan for
17 the state's current and future needs for child care, as well as early learning services, including the
18 expansion of pre-kindergarten.

19 The Commission shall consist of thirty-one (31) members: five (5) of whom shall be
20 members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, not more than four (4) from the same
21 political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; four (4) of whom shall be members
22 of the Rhode Island Senate, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed
23 by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be from the Rhode Island Department of
24 Human Services State Child Care Licensing Office, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
25 one of whom shall be from the Rhode Island Department of Human Services State Child Care
26 Subsidy Program, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be the Director of
27 the Head Start Collaboration Office, or designee; one of whom shall be the Child Advocate of the
28 State of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Rhode Island
29 Department of Education, or designee; one of whom shall be a representative from Business
30 Owners of Childcare Association (BOCA), to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of
31 whom shall be a representative from the State Alliance of YMCAs, to be appointed by the Senate
32 President; one of whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island Childcare Directors
33 Association (RICCDA), to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a
34 representative from the RI Head Start Association, to be appointed by the Senate President; one

1 of whom shall be a representative from Family Child Care Homes of Rhode Island, to be
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative from the SEIU
3 1199 Family Care Providers Union, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall
4 be a representative from the Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, to be appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Parent
6 Information Network, Inc., or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of Rhode
7 Island KIDS COUNT, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director at The
8 Economic Progress Institute, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
9 Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, or designee; one of whom shall
10 be the Commissioner of the Office of the Postsecondary Education who has direct knowledge of
11 and experience working with an institution's early childhood education program or department, or
12 designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Local Initiatives Support
13 Corporation (LISC Rhode Island), or designee; one of whom shall be the President and Chief
14 Executive Officer of the United Way of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the
15 Executive Director of the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council, or designee; one of
16 whom shall be the Executive Director of Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE), or
17 designee; and one of whom shall be an early childhood program leader in Rhode Island who has
18 expertise in early childhood through their own education and experience, focuses their work in
19 the urban core or similar community that is traditionally underserved, and whose work
20 predominantly serves historically marginalized populations, to be appointed jointly by the
21 Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Commission
22 Chairs.

23 When making appointments, consideration shall be given to increasing diversity on the
24 Commission to more closely reflect the demographics of the State of Rhode Island.

25 Membership in the Commission shall be reviewed and updated every two or three years.

26 The Commission shall be hosted by the House of Representatives in even-numbered
27 years and by the Senate in odd-numbered years.

28 The Commission shall organize and execute an annual event for Child Care and Early
29 Education Awareness Day, and a planning retreat to discuss child care and early education
30 initiatives every two or three years.

31 The Commission may be allotted an annual budget up to five thousand dollars via grant
32 funding, subject to approval by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, to

- 1 support activities and costs associated with Child Care Awareness Day and the planning retreat.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE
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- 1 This resolution would amend the commission name, membership, appointment process,
- 2 purpose, funding allowance designation, timeline for membership, and meeting schedules.

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