

2020 -- S 2432

=====
LC004476
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
BENEFITS OF A WORKERS' COOPERATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Nesselbush, Euer, Goldin, and Conley

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Labor

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of five (5) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than
3 one from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom
4 shall be the Director of Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, or designee; one of
5 whom shall be the Rhode Island Secretary of State, or designee; and one of whom shall be the
6 Rhode Island General Treasurer, or designee.

7 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory
8 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
9 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
10 of a legislator; provided that, the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party
11 which is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general public.

12 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the potential
13 benefits of a workers' cooperative to the Rhode Island economy, as defined in Chapter 7-6.2 of
14 the Rhode Island General Laws, and make such recommendations and findings as it deems
15 appropriate regarding mechanisms to support and fund such entities in the state to maximize their
16 positive economic impact.

17 Areas of research are to include, but not limited to:

18 (1) Studies of implementations in other states, and countries including, but not limited to:
19 Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Colombia;

1 (2) Survey areas of need and opportunities in Rhode Island, which could be met by
2 workers cooperatives;

3 (3) Identification of initiatives, which would be specifically applicable to Rhode Island;

4 (4) Cataloging of Federal and interstate resources that would be available to support the
5 formation of cooperatives in Rhode Island;

6 (5) Catalog sources of startup and conversion funding available from within Rhode Island
7 and from out of state;

8 (6) Possible Rhode Island “Anchor Institutions” and their potential for support of local
9 worker cooperative formation;

10 (7) Investigate the possible benefits of developing a cooperative business curriculum at
11 state educational institutions; and

12 (8) Examine the feasibility of setting up an “Office of Employee Ownership.”

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
14 the call of the President of the Senate and organize and shall select a chairperson from among the
15 legislators.

16 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.
17 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

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

21 The commission shall seek input from the general public through at least one publicized
22 open meeting.

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

25 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
26 President of the Senate, and shall be made available to the general public, no later than June 1,
27 2021, and said commission shall expire on January 7, 2022.

=====
LC004476
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
BENEFITS OF A WORKERS' COOPERATIVE

1 This resolution would create a five (5) member special legislative study commission
2 whose purpose it would be to study the potential benefits of a workers' cooperative system, and
3 who would report back to the Senate no later than June 1, 2021, and whose life would expire on
4 January 7, 2022.

=====
LC004476
=====