

2014 -- S 2433

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
IMPLEMENTING FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS IN ALL RHODE ISLAND  
AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lynch, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

1           WHEREAS, Research has shown that full-day kindergarteners demonstrate more positive  
2 academic and behavioral effects than half-day kindergarteners; and

3           WHEREAS, Research has also indicated that students enrolled in full-day kindergarten  
4 have better work habits, become more independent than students in half-day programs, and are  
5 more likely to be promoted through grade 2, than those who attended half-day kindergarten; and

6           WHEREAS, In addition, studies have found that full-day kindergarten enables students  
7 from low socioeconomic or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to come to par or even  
8 outperform their counterparts from higher socioeconomic or educationally advantaged  
9 backgrounds; now, therefore be it

10           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
11 consisting of twelve (12) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more  
12 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; three  
13 (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the  
14 same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the  
15 President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Education Association, or designee; one of  
16 whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers,  
17 or designee; two (2) of whom shall be members of Rhode Island School Committees, one of  
18 whom shall be from a school district with full-day kindergarten and one of whom shall be from a  
19 school district without full-day kindergarten, to be appointed by the President of the Rhode Island

1 Association of School Committees; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of The Rhode  
2 Island School Superintendents Association, or designee; and one of whom shall be the Executive  
3 Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, or designee.

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

9 The purpose of said Commission shall be to make a comprehensive study, utilizing the  
10 most current studies and information available, on the necessity, feasibility, curriculum  
11 development, long-term benefits, and funding policies and resources for implementing full-day  
12 kindergarten programs in all Rhode Island public schools.

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
14 the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and organize and shall select  
15 a chairperson from among the 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 Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
22 suitable quarters in the State House for said Commission; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
24 General Assembly no later than January 6, 2015, and said commission shall expire on March 6,  
25 2015.

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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 create a twelve (12) member special legislative commission whose  
2 purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of implementing full-day kindergarten  
3 classes in all Rhode Island public schools, and who would report back to the General Assembly  
4 on or before January 6, 2015, and said commission would expire on March 6, 2015.

5           ExplanationEffectiveText

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