

**2018 -- S 2669 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC005099/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

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**S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE  
IMPACT OF "PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Seveney, Coyne, Calkin, and Goldin

Date Introduced: March 20, 2018

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, In 2012, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted legislation to  
2 implement "Project Sustainability" within the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral  
3 Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH); and

4           WHEREAS, The goal of the Project was to bring predictability, efficiency, and  
5 transparency to the way in which the state pays for services for the developmentally disabled; and

6           WHEREAS, Project Sustainability implemented a nationally recognized tool, the  
7 Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) in order to establish a new rate structure; and

8           WHEREAS, Recently, BHDDH migrated to the SIS-A tool in order to assess its clients;  
9 now, therefore be it

10           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
11 consisting of nineteen (19) 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; one of  
13 whom shall be the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), or  
14 designee; one of whom shall be the Medicaid Director of the EOHHS, or designee; one of whom  
15 shall be the Director of the BHDDH, or designee; one of whom shall be the BHDDH Director of  
16 the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), or designee; one of whom shall be the  
17 BHDDH Finance Director of the DDD, or designee; one of whom shall be the BHDDH Consent  
18 Decree Coordinator, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Community  
19 Provider Network of Rhode Island (CPNRI), or designee; one of whom shall be the President of

1 Our Providers Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode  
2 Island Disability Law Center, or designee; one of whom shall be the BHDDH Associate Director  
3 of the DDD, or designee; one of whom shall be Director of the Paul V. Sherlock Center on  
4 Disabilities, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Developmental  
5 Disability Council, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chairperson of Rhode Island Families  
6 Organized for Reform Change and Empowerment (RI FORCE), or designee; and three (3) of  
7 whom shall be provider representatives with relevant systems or fiscal expertise, to be appointed  
8 by the President of the Senate.

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

14 The purpose of said commission shall be to study and evaluate the impact of Project  
15 Sustainability and make recommendations for improvements in its implementation, including, but  
16 not limited to, the rate payment methodology.

17 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
18 the call of the President of the Senate and organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a  
19 chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original  
20 appointment.

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

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

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

27 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
28 Senate no later than March 1, 2019, and said commission shall expire on June 30, 2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
SENATE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE  
IMPACT OF "PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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1           This resolution would create a nineteen (19) member special legislative commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study and provide recommendations on the  
3 impact of "Project Sustainability", and who would report back to the Senate no later than March  
4 1, 2019, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2019.

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