

2012 -- S 2694

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S  
MINIMUM PRICING STATUTES

Introduced By: Senator Juan M. Pichardo

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
2 consisting of ten (10) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than  
3 two (2) of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the  
4 Senate; and three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than  
5 two (2) of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
6 House; the Director of the Division of Taxation; a representative of the New England  
7 Convenience Stores Association; a representative who is a tobacco wholesaler distributor and is  
8 from the dairy industry; and an individual with expertise in finance or consumer economics, to be  
9 appointed by the Governor. The commission shall adopt rules and establish procedures it  
10 considers necessary for the conduct of its business.

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

16           The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of all Rhode  
17 Island laws and regulations pertaining to minimum pricing and to make recommendations to: (1)  
18 Examine the minimum pricing laws in existence in Rhode Island and the purpose behind their  
19 initial creation; (2) Examine the minimum pricing laws of Rhode Island's neighboring states; (3)

1 Provide an analysis of the impact of the Rhode Island minimum pricing laws on the cost and price  
2 of products so regulated; (4) Provide an analysis of the impact of the neighboring states'  
3 minimum pricing laws on the cost and price of products so regulated; and (5) Develop  
4 recommendations as to whether Rhode Island's minimum pricing laws continue to serve their  
5 original purpose and whether such laws put Rhode Island and its businesses and residents at a  
6 competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states.

7           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
8 the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and organize. The President  
9 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each select one member to serve as co-  
10 chairpersons of the commission.

11           Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.  
12 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services. All  
13 departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and  
14 otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the  
15 commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

16           The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide  
17 suitable quarters in the State House for said commission; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and results to the general  
19 assembly on or before January 17, 2013, and said commission shall expire on February 14, 2013.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S  
MINIMUM PRICING STATUTES

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1           This resolution would create a special legislative commission whose purpose it would be  
2 to make a comprehensive study of Rhode Island's minimum pricing statutes and whether Rhode  
3 Island's minimum pricing laws continue to serve their original purpose, and whether such laws  
4 are putting Rhode Island and its businesses and residents at a competitive disadvantage compared  
5 to neighboring states, and who would report back to the general assembly no later than January  
6 17, 2013, and whose life would expire on February 14, 2013.

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