

2010 -- S 2822

LC02410

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PURCHASE AND
USE OF TEXTBOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Gallo, Cote, Maher, and Jabour

Date Introduced: April 29, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The purchase of textbooks is a cost which has been rapidly accelerating; and

2 WHEREAS, The increased use and accessibility of computers suggest that a paperless/no
3 textbook school may be a possibility in the foreseeable future; and

4 WHEREAS, It will be important to determine in what disciplines and in what ways this
5 trend should be encouraged; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission to be known as the "Special
7 Legislative Commission to Study the Purchase and Use of Textbooks in Public Schools," be and
8 the same is hereby created consisting of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be
9 members of the House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to
10 be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not
11 more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
12 one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee;
13 one of whom shall be the President of the RI Association of School Superintendents, or designee;
14 one of whom shall be the President of the RI Association of School Committees, or designee; one
15 of whom shall be the President of the National Education Association (RI), or designee; one of
16 whom shall be the President of the American Federation of Teachers (RI), or designee; and four
17 (4) of whom shall be citizens of Rhode Island two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker
18 of the House, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

19 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory

1 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly
2 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
3 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which
4 is entitled to the appointment consent to the member of the general public.

5 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the use of
6 textbooks in the public schools, and in particular the following:

7 (1) The use and exploitation of electronic media in the classroom, and specifically to
8 explore the possible advantages and disadvantages of the “paperless classroom”, so-called, and
9 the possible cost savings arising therefrom.

10 (2) The list of textbooks in use in the public schools as published by the commissioner of
11 education, and whether that list should be expanded to cover all subjects and should specify a
12 limited number of options per grade.

13 (3) The procurement process, and whether the procurement and distribution of textbooks
14 should be a centralized function under the department of education.

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

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

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

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 General Assembly no later than March 5, 2011, and said commission shall expire on May 5,
27 2011.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PURCHASE AND
USE OF TEXTBOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 This resolution would create a Joint Legislative Commission whose purpose it would be
2 to study all aspects of the purchase and use of textbooks in public schools, and who would report
3 back to the General Assembly no later than March 5, 2011, and whose life would expire on May
4 5, 2011.

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