

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICIES PERTAINING TO THE RHODE ISLAND LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (LEOBOR)

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Ruggiero, McCaffrey, Goodwin, and Coyne

Date Introduced: June 12, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The safety and security of individuals is a high priority and of utmost
2 concern; and

3 WHEREAS, In a free society, law enforcement is essential in order to promote public
4 safety and uphold the rule of law so that individual liberty may flourish; and

5 WHEREAS, Good will, trust, and accountability between law enforcement and the
6 communities they are sworn to protect is crucial to advancing these goals; and

7 WHEREAS, The Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights ("LEOBOR") was adopted in
8 Rhode Island in 1976, and was codified in Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 42-28.6; and

9 WHEREAS, Since its passing, the LEOBOR has been amended several times, however it
10 has not undergone a substantive review since 1995; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent events and tragedies have again revealed the need to review and
12 strengthen conduct and discipline policies within law enforcement agencies across the nation and
13 in Rhode Island, thus, it is essential that a comprehensive examination and evaluation of the
14 LEOBOR is undertaken; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That a special legislative task force be and the same is hereby created
16 consisting of thirteen (13) members; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more
17 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
18 whom shall be the Rhode Island Attorney General, or designee; one of whom shall be the
19 Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, or designee; one of whom shall be a police chief

1 of a Rhode Island law enforcement agency, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
2 whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Human Rights Commission, or
3 designee; one of whom shall be the President of the National Association for the Advancement of
4 Colored People Providence Branch (NAACP), or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
5 the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
6 Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University, or designee; one of whom shall be the
7 Executive Director of the Providence External Review Authority, or designee; and two (2) of
8 whom shall be members of the public to be appointed by the Senate President.

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 or task force created by a
11 General Assembly resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general
12 public to serve in lieu of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of
13 the political party which is entitled to the appointment consents to the member of the general
14 public.

15 The purpose of said task force shall be to make a comprehensive study and provide
16 recommendations on the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights including, but not limited to:

- 17 Protect the rights of our residents;
- 18 Conduct and accountability responsibilities;
- 19 Police relations with racial and ethnic minority communities;
- 20 Police management;
- 21 Disciplinary procedures;
- 22 Enhanced training for cultural competency; and
- 23 Diversity in all law enforcement agencies.

24 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the task force shall meet at the
25 call of the President of the Senate who shall appoint a chairperson, and organize.

26 Vacancies in said task force shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

27 The membership of said task force shall receive no compensation for their services.

28 All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information,
29 documentary and otherwise, to said task force and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable
30 by the task force to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

31 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
32 suitable quarters for said task force; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
- 2 Senate no later than February 9, 2021, and said task force shall expire on May 9, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
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ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (LEOBOR)

- 1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative study task force
- 2 whose purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations on policies pertaining to the
- 3 Rhode Island Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, and who would report back to the Senate
- 4 no later than February 9, 2021, and whose life would expire on May 9, 2021.

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