

2016 -- S 2953 SUBSTITUTE A

LC005962/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION
OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- ETHICS COMMISSION

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Goodwin, McCaffrey, and Conley

Date Introduced: May 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the constitution of the state be proposed to
3 qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution
4 for their approval and the following Articles are hereby amended, as hereinafter set forth,
5 effective on January 3, 2017, to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE III

7 OF QUALIFICATION OF OFFICE

8 **Section 8.** Ethics commission -- Code of ethics. -- The general assembly shall establish
9 an independent non-partisan ethics commission which shall adopt a code of ethics including, but
10 not limited to, provisions on conflicts of interest, confidential information, use of position,
11 contracts with government agencies and financial disclosure. The assent of two-thirds (2/3) of the
12 members appointed shall be required for the adoption for every rule or regulation. All elected and
13 appointed officials and employees of state and local government, of boards, commissions and
14 agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics. The ethics commission shall have the authority to
15 investigate alleged violations of the code of ethics, including acts otherwise protected by Article
16 VI, Section 5, and to impose penalties, as provided by law; ~~and the~~ Any sanction issued against
17 any party by the ethics commission shall be appealable to the judicial branch as provided by law.
18 The commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not otherwise
19 subject to impeachment, or expulsion as provided by Article VI, Section 7.

