

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2006

A N A C T

THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2006 - PART V

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Perry, Roberts, and Gibbs

Date Introduced: June 15, 2006

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 WHEREAS, On April 12, 2006, landmark legislation was enacted in the Commonwealth
2 of Massachusetts that would provide nearly universal health care coverage to Massachusetts'
3 residents; and

4 WHEREAS, The states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island share the advantages of a
5 high percentage of employers offering employee health benefits and expanded Medicaid
6 programs; and

7 WHEREAS, The states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island each have lower percentages
8 of uninsured persons than the national average; and

9 WHEREAS, Health care costs continue to rise at rates significantly outpacing wage
10 increases; and

11 WHEREAS, These cost increases have led to reduced employer profits, increased
12 employee expenses, and more persons who are without health insurance coverage; and

13 WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan combines features of
14 individual responsibility with government subsidies, and crossing traditional ideological
15 boundaries; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
17 Plantations hereby strongly believes that a thorough study of the applicability of the
18 Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan to Rhode Island is necessary; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a special Task Force on Health Care Reform be and the same is
2 hereby created consisting of nineteen (19) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the
3 House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by
4 the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two
5 (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom
6 shall be the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Rhode Island, who shall be chair; one of whom
7 shall be the Director of the Department of Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director
8 of the Department of Human Services, or designee; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island
9 Health Insurance Commissioner, or designee; three (3) of whom shall be members of the public,
10 one of whom shall be a Rhode Island Business owner and one (1) of whom shall be a
11 representative of organized labor and one (1) of whom shall be a consumer, to be appointed by
12 the Governor; three (3) of whom shall be members of the public, one (1) of whom shall be a
13 Rhode Island Business owner and one (1) of whom shall be a representative of organized labor
14 and one (1) of whom shall be a consumer, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; three
15 (3) of whom shall be members of the public, one of whom shall be a Rhode Island Business
16 owner one (1) of whom shall be a representative of organized labor and one of whom shall be a
17 consumer, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

18 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a task force, permanent
19 advisory commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General
20 Assembly resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to
21 serve in lieu of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political
22 party which is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the
23 general public.

24 The purpose of said task force shall be to make a comprehensive study of the
25 Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan and its potential applicability to the State of Rhode
26 Island.

27 On November 15, 2006, or immediately thereafter, the members of the task force shall
28 meet at the call of the General Assembly and organize. Vacancies in said task force shall be
29 filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

3 RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
4 General Assembly no later than June 5, 2007 and said task force shall expire on August 5, 2007.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2006 - PART V

- 1 This resolution would create a nineteen (19) member special task force whose purpose it
- 2 would be to make a comprehensive study of the Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan and its
- 3 potential applicability to the State of Rhode Island, and who would report back to the General
- 4 Assembly no later than June 5, 2007 and whose life would expire on August 5, 2007.

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