

2008 -- H 7466

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**CREATING A JOINT TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE
REFORM RELATING TO THE HEALTHY RHODE ISLAND REFORM ACT OF 2008 -
PART VIII**

Introduced By: Representatives Lewiss, Church, Ferri, Gemma, and Slater

Date Introduced: February 13, 2008

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

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, Since the passage of the Massachusetts legislation several other states and
14 many national candidates for office have proposed comprehensive health care reform plans; now,
15 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, other states' health care reform initiatives and health
19 care reform plans proposed by many national candidates for office is necessary; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a special Joint Task Force be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of nine (9) members: four (4) of whom shall be members of the House of
3 Representatives, not more than three (3) from the same political party, to be appointed by the
4 Speaker of the House; four (4) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than three (3)
5 from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and one of whom
6 shall be the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Rhode Island, or designee.

7 The purpose of said task force shall be to make a comprehensive study of the
8 Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan, other states' health care reform initiatives and the health
9 care reform proposals of national candidates for office and the potential applicability of these
10 initiatives to the State of Rhode Island.

11 On September 1, 2008, or immediately thereafter, the members of the task force shall
12 meet at the call of the General Assembly and organize and shall select one co-chair from among
13 the members of the House of Representatives, one co-chair from among the members of the
14 Senate, and one co-chair who shall be the Lieutenant Governor.

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
23 General Assembly no later than June 4, 2009 and said task force shall expire on August 4, 2009.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
CREATING A JOINT TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE
REFORM RELATING TO THE HEALTHY RHODE ISLAND REFORM ACT OF 2008 -
PART VIII

- 1 This resolution would create a nine (9) member special joint task force whose purpose it
- 2 would be to make a comprehensive study of all aspects of health care reform, and who would
- 3 report back to the General Assembly no later than June 4, 2009 and whose life would expire on
- 4 August 4, 2009.

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