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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

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

CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE DEFENSE ECONOMY PLANNING COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Callahan, Long, Gallison, and Crowley

Date Introduced: April 02, 2003

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The defense industry is critical to the strength of the Rhode Island economy;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The defense industry provides high-quality, good-paying jobs for residents
4 throughout the state; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2005, the United States Congress and the Department of Defense will be
6 convening a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) to examine all of the nation's
7 military bases; and

8 WHEREAS, The potential impact of closing or relocating the local Naval Base would be
9 devastating to our state's economy, both in the loss of jobs and the loss of revenue for the state;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The defense industry has an economic impact of \$1.6 billion and employs
12 over 15,000 people in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, On Aquidneck Island alone, 11,000 people, military and civilian, are
14 employed by the defense industry with a payroll of over \$870 million; and

15 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives must implement policies that will help
16 preserve our current defense economy and provide incentives for new investments; now,
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That a special house commission be and the same is hereby created
19 consisting of seventeen (17) members: nine (9) of whom shall be from the House of
20 Representatives, not more than seven (7) from the same political party, to be appointed by the

1 Speaker; one (1) of whom shall be the President of the Southeastern New England Defense
2 Industry Alliance or his or her designee; one (1) of whom shall be the Executive Director of the
3 Newport County Chamber of Commerce or his or her designee; one (1) of whom shall be a
4 member of a Chamber of Commerce other than the Newport Chamber of Commerce or his or her
5 designee; one (1) of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Economic
6 Development Corporation or his or her designee; two (2) of whom shall be members of the public
7 with experience in past base realignment and closure commissions; and two (2) of whom shall be
8 members of the public connected to the defense industry, to be appointed by the Speaker.

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 created by a general assembly
11 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu
12 of a legislator, provided that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party
13 which is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general
14 public.

15 The purpose of said commission shall be to discuss issues pertaining to the state's defense
16 economy and propose initiatives to sustain and enhance the defense economy in Rhode Island.

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

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

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

24 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters
25 for said commission; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
27 House of Representatives on or before December 1, 2003 and said commission shall expire on
28 May 19, 2006.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE DEFENSE ECONOMY PLANNING COMMISSION

1 This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special house commission whose
2 purpose it would be to study the state's defense economy, and who would report back to the
3 House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2003 and whose life would expire on May
4 19, 2006.

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