

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 184

Approved April 26, 2024

WHEREAS, 2024 H-7977, sponsored by Speaker Shekarchi, proposes the creation of an 11-member commission tasked with studying the capacity of Rhode Island's educational system to offer degrees or certificates aimed at cultivating a supply of planners, planning technicians, and planning staff; and

WHEREAS, This legislative initiative acknowledges the critical shortage of planning professionals within the state, a condition that hampers Rhode Island's ability to effectively plan for and manage growth, development, and conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, The absence of a dedicated educational program for planning professionals in Rhode Island has been identified as a significant barrier to establishing a sustainable pipeline for these essential jobs, thereby necessitating a comprehensive study and strategic action; and

WHEREAS, The commission is charged with reporting its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 1, 2025, providing a clear timeline for addressing this urgent issue; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of such a commission represents a proactive and strategic approach to strengthening Rhode Island's educational offerings, ensuring that the state can meet the evolving needs of urban and regional planning in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, By focusing on the development of local talent and expertise in the field of planning, 2024 H-7977 aims to enhance Rhode Island's capacity for sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its strong support for 2024 H-7977, recognizing the critical need for a specialized educational pathway for planning professionals in Rhode Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to members of the Rhode Island State House of Representatives and Rhode Island State Senate, and the Office of Governor McKee, to affirm the Providence City Council's endorsement of 2024 H-7977 and its goal of establishing a robust educational pipeline for planning professionals in the state.


IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 18 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

Tina L. Mastrosimone
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor

Date: 4/26/2024

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ABILITY OF THE
RHODE ISLAND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO OFFER DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS WITHIN THE STATE TO PROVIDE A SUPPLY AND A PIPELINE OF
PLANNERS, PLANNING TECHNICIANS, AND PLANNING STAFF

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cruz, Morales, Speakman,
Spears, Craven, Azzinaro, Solomon, and Kazarian
Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

1 WHEREAS, There are challenges to development in Rhode Island including the
2 significant amount of time to obtain local permits, environmental challenges and restrictive and
3 outdated local zoning and planning regulations and comprehensive plans; and

4 WHEREAS, At this time, it is imperative to undertake a broad based review of the ability
5 to improve upon in-state educational opportunities, programs and certifications; now therefore be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
8 consisting of eleven (11) members: one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Rhode Island
9 Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of
10 the University of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of Rhode Island
11 College, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Community College of Rhode
12 Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the Associate Director of the State of Rhode Island
13 Division of Statewide Planning, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the American
14 Planning Association-Rhode Island Division, or designee; one of whom shall be a municipal
15 planner, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive
16 Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, or designee; one of whom shall be a
17 teacher from a career technical education "CTE" school, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House; and two (2) of whom shall be members of the public, one of whom shall possess

1 significant professional housing experience, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

2 The purpose of said commission shall be to undertake a comprehensive study and a broad
3 review of the ability of the Rhode Island educational system to offer degrees of certificate
4 programs within the State to provide a supply and a pipeline of planners, planning technicians and
5 planning staff, and provide recommendations based upon this study and review, that will enable
6 the State to ensure and promote the aforementioned educational opportunities.

7 Forthwith upon the passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet
8 at the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select a chairperson.

9 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
17 House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2025, and said commission shall expire on June
18 30, 2025.

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LC005506
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ABILITY OF THE
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1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative study commission
2 whose purpose it would be to study the ability of the Rhode Island educational system to offer
3 degree or certificate programs within the State to provide a supply and a pipeline of planners,
4 planning technicians, and planning staff, and who would report back to the House no later than
5 January 1, 2025, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2025.

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