

2022 -- S 3056

=====
LC006162
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RHODE ISLAND'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: June 21, 2022

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of eleven (11) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the Senate, to be
3 appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of
4 Environmental Management, or designee; one of whom shall be from the Old Growth Tree
5 Society, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be from the Rhode Island
6 Natural History Survey, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall be from The
7 Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of whom shall
8 be from the Rhode Island Audubon Society, to be appointed by the Senate President; one of
9 whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, or designee; one
10 of whom shall be a certified arborist, to be appointed by the Senate President; and two (2) of
11 whom shall be members of a local land trust, to be appointed by the Senate President.

12 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
13 commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly resolution, the appointing
14 authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator.

15 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and review of
16 Rhode Island's old growth forests and provide recommendations on preserving and protecting
17 these natural habitats. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

18 • Identifying and mapping the locations of Rhode Island's old growth forests, rare forest
19 ecosystems, and if possible, areas of most environmentally sensitive land and/or water worthy of

1 preservation in its natural condition;

2 • Formulating advisory policies and plans to protect the state’s old growth forests, rare
3 forest ecosystems, and areas of most environmentally sensitive land;

4 • Providing advisory policies, plans, and recommendations related to the preservation and
5 protection of the state’s old growth forest; and

6 • Surveying forests scheduled for forestry operations on state and municipally owned
7 land that include timber harvesting, cutting, girdling, burning, or any alterations to the forest
8 before the forestry operation takes place to determine if there are any old growth forests in the
9 area that could be threatened by the forestry operation. If an old growth forest is found, the
10 commission may make advisory policies, plans, or recommendations for the old growth forest to
11 be protected and not disturbed by the forestry operation.

12 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
13 the call of the President of the Senate. They shall organize and select, from among the members, a
14 chairperson or co-chairpersons.

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

16 The membership of said commission 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 commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or
19 desirable by the commission 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 commission; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
23 Senate on or before August 18, 2023, and said commission shall expire on December 31, 2023.

=====
LC006162
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RHODE ISLAND'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

- 1 This resolution would create an eleven (11) member commission whose purpose would
- 2 be to study and make recommendations regarding Rhode Island's old growth forests, and which
- 3 would report back to the Senate by August 18, 2023, and expire on December 31, 2023.

=====
LC006162
=====