

2016 -- S 2221 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

LC003787/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
GRANDPARENT RIGHTS**

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Archambault, Lombardi, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Grandparents can provide grandchildren with a connection to the past
2 through story-telling about the parent's and their own childhood, to the child's heritage and to
3 history through accounts of what life was like when they were growing up; and

4 WHEREAS, Grandparents can provide grandchildren with a connection to extended
5 family, such as cousins, and great aunts and uncles when appropriate; and

6 WHEREAS, The alienation of grandchildren from their grandparents affects all
7 populations regardless of socio-economic boundaries and can affect the mental, emotional and
8 physical health of grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, Grandparent visitation rights must be consistent with due process and the
10 constitutional rights of parents; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
12 consisting of 10 members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two
13 (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Senate President, one of whom shall be
14 the Chief Judge of the Family Court, or designee; one of whom shall be the Chief Strategy
15 Officer from the Department of Children, Youth and Families, (DCYF), or designee; one of
16 whom shall be ~~the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), or~~
17 ~~designee;~~ a representative from RI Legal Services to be appointed by the president of the senate;
18 one of whom shall be a representative of Adoption Rhode Island, or a similar community-based
19 service provider; and three (3) of whom shall be members of the public, to be appointed by the

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