

2009 -- H 6010

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

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

**CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY PSYCHIATRIC HOLDS IN
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, McNamara, M Rice, E Coderre, and Ferri

Date Introduced: March 24, 2009

Referred To: House Constituent Services

1 WHEREAS, An individual who a physician believes is in need of immediate care and
2 treatment and whose presence in the community would create an imminent likelihood of serious
3 harm by reason of mental disability may be held for up to seventy-two (72) hours for examination
4 and evaluation (“psychiatric hold”); and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the lack of inpatient psychiatric beds in the State of Rhode Island,
6 patients who are subject to psychiatric holds as a result of a visit to an acute care hospital
7 emergency department must stay in the emergency department for the duration of the psychiatric
8 hold; and

9 WHEREAS, It is medically inappropriate for psychiatric patients to be held in an acute
10 care hospital and/or an emergency department rather than be transferred to a psychiatric facility to
11 receive treatment for their illness; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That a special house commission be and the same is hereby created
13 consisting of three (3) members: two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
14 House; and one of whom shall be appointed by the House Minority Leader.

15 The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the
16 implications and consequences of psychiatric holds in hospital emergency departments.

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

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

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

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

7 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
8 House of Representatives no later than January 5, 2010, and said commission shall expire on
9 March 5, 2010.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY PSYCHIATRIC HOLDS IN
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

1 This resolution would create a three (3) member special House study commission whose
2 purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the implications of psychiatric holds in
3 hospital emergency departments, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no
4 later than January 5, 2010, and whose life would expire on March 5, 2010.

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