

2025 -- H 5408

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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

**CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE AARON LEY, PH.D. ON THE ACCREDITATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND'S MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAM BY THE NETWORK OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICY, AFFAIRS, AND
ADMINISTRATION (NASPAA)**

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Fogarty, Chippendale, Tanzi, Shekarchi,
Blazejewski, Spears, McEntee, Kennedy, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 11, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 1961, the University of Rhode Island initiated a Master of Public
2 Administration program. Twenty years later, the program's faculty aspired to become an
3 accredited program, which led to a collaborative effort by myriad past and present faculty
4 members, alumni of the program, and ultimately current students, under the guidance and
5 direction of the University of Rhode Island's Master of Public Administration program, Director
6 Aaron Ley, Ph.D.; and

7 WHEREAS, In preparation for a career in education, Dr. Ley attained his Bachelor's
8 degree in Political Science from Concordia College, his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Political
9 Science from Washington State University, and in 2014, he joined URI's faculty where he is
10 currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, as well as the Director of
11 the Master of Public Administration; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Dr. Ley's focus has included myriad research
13 interests which led to publications in Law & Society Review, Society & Natural Resources,
14 Review of Policy Research, Environmental Politics, Law & Policy, Journal of Policy History, and
15 numerous additional journals and reviews; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2025, the University of Rhode Island Master of Public Administration
17 program, under the direction of Dr. Ley, achieved the significant distinction of becoming the first
18 MPA program in Rhode Island to receive accreditation from NASPAA; and

1 WHEREAS, NASPAA is the “global standard in public service master’s degree
2 programs.” Accreditation from this prestigious organization requires a university’s deep
3 commitment to upholding rigorous standards based on principles of public service, ethics and
4 transparency; and

5 WHEREAS, The essential goal of the curriculum for the NASPAA program is to prepare
6 students for accountable, competent, ethical and efficient careers in public service; and

7 WHEREAS, Achieving NASPAA accreditation is a “critical resource for the State of
8 Rhode Island” and a symbol of URI’s “constant effort towards self-improvement” and its ability
9 to fully prepare future public administration leaders for our State; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 congratulates Aaron Ley, Ph.D. and the University of Rhode Island on the accreditation of the
12 University’s Master Of Public Administration program by the Network of Schools of Public
13 Policy, Affairs, and Administration; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Aaron Ley, Ph.D.

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