

2011 -- H 5925

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH 10, 2011, TO BE "CULTURE STOPS! DAY" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representative Arthur Handy

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Culture Stops! Day is a citizen-driven, peaceful day of action initiated by  
2 individuals and organizations in the creative sector across the United States who share the simple  
3 belief that the power of creative thought is the lifeblood of democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, Culture Stops! Day in Rhode Island encourages the people of this state to  
5 imagine a world where writers put down their pens and artists put down their paints. A world  
6 where architects stop designing our cities, and poets, dancers, and sculptors stop teaching our  
7 children. Where national landmarks fall into decay and where debate is no longer fostered in our  
8 universities or on our radio dials. A world in which symphony halls fall silent and libraries go  
9 dark and where our collective history is left unmade and unwritten; and

10 WHEREAS, On Culture Stops! Day, creative sector organizations and individuals will  
11 take part in a range of planned actions, from interrupted programming and services, to shuttered  
12 venues and moments of silence; and

13 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, the non-profit industry in Providence alone generates  
14 \$111.8 million annually in economic activity and the number of employees in arts-related  
15 businesses has increased by 11 percent between 2009 and 2010, resulting in over 13,000 people  
16 employed in nearly 2,500 businesses; and

17 WHEREAS, Nationally, the non-profit arts industry alone generates \$166.2 billion  
18 annually in economic activity, supports 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs in the arts and  
19 related industries, and returns \$12.6 billion in federal income taxes; and

1           WHEREAS, Both the current Congressional budget and the proposed 2012 budget call  
2 for massive reductions to, and even eradication of, a range of agencies and programs, including  
3 the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Arts in  
4 Education, funds for Community Development Block Grants, Pell Grants, and funding for the  
5 Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

6           WHEREAS, These actions will seriously weaken our creative sector, our country, and  
7 our state economically, socially, and civically; and

8           WHEREAS, Arts and culture feed the minds and fuel the souls of Rhode Islanders and all  
9 Americans; now, therefore be it

10          RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
11 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims March 10<sup>th</sup> of 2011 to be “Culture Stops! Day,” a  
12 national movement launched here in Rhode Island, but championed across the nation in the states  
13 of Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Virginia, and Vermont.

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