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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO REQUIRE ALL RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT EACH
DISTRICT'S MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Casey, McNamara, Shekarchi, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, In 1999, in his State of the Union Address, former President Clinton stated
2 "No child should graduate from high school with a diploma he or she can't read"; and

3 WHEREAS, Allowing students to pass from grade to grade, and particularly to graduate
4 high school, without mastering the basic material and skills necessary to progress to a career or
5 higher education is flawed and misguided; and

6 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the people of this state to end so-called "social
7 promotion," and to raise the bar on graduation requirements to meet rigorous academic standards
8 and increase work skills so that our young people will be prepared to compete in an ever-evolving
9 global workforce; and

10 WHEREAS, A high school diploma must have consistency and value in the real world;
11 now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
13 Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Education to require all
14 Rhode Island school districts to submit each district's minimum high school graduation
15 requirements on or before December 1, 2014, and to submit a consolidated report to the General
16 Assembly on or before January 31, 2015; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary
3 and Secondary Education.

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