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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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

**OPPOSING THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO HALT ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

Introduced By: Representatives Almeida, Diaz, Williams, and Slater

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

Referred To: House Labor

1 WHEREAS, The federal government is encouraging employers to use E-Verify, the
2 electronic employment eligibility verification program previously known as Basic Pilot and
3 administered by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services, which uses both the
4 databases of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security with
5 the goal of verifying employment eligibility of new hires; and

6 WHEREAS, Both databases contain significant errors, and the database of the Social
7 Security Administration alone contains an estimated 17.8 million discrepancies related to name,
8 date of birth, or citizenship status; and

9 WHEREAS, These erroneous databases result in foreign-born lawful workers being
10 incorrectly identified as not authorized for employment at a rate thirty times greater than native-
11 born U.S. citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Foreign-born citizens are further greatly impacted by these errors to the
13 extent that nearly ten percent of such citizens are initially given a tentative non-confirmation of
14 employment eligibility status under the program; and

15 WHEREAS, These high error rates result in discouraging some employers from hiring
16 perceived foreign-born workers; and

17 WHEREAS, Some employers across the country have been found to inappropriately use
18 the E-Verify program in a discriminatory manner to pre-screen certain employees based on their
19 national origin or other improper factors and to take adverse action against employees who

1 receive tentative non-confirmation notices; and

2 WHEREAS, Discrimination on the basis of race, color, or country of ancestral origin is a
3 matter of great concern to the State of Rhode Island, and a flawed program such as E-Verify
4 contributes to such discrimination; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby urges employers not to participate in the E-Verify program at this
7 time, and calls upon the United States Congress to halt implementation of this program until such
8 time as the issues described in this resolution are satisfactorily resolved; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional
11 Delegation.

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