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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JUDGE MELISSA R. DUBOSE'S HISTORIC CONFIRMATION TO
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Speakman, Knight,
Chippendale, Fogarty, Biah, McNamara, and Potter

Date Introduced: March 21, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The historic nomination of Judge Melissa R. DuBose, the first woman of
2 color and first LGBTQ+ person, was approved by the full United States Senate to serve on the
3 United States District Court in Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, A lifelong Rhode Islander, Judge DuBose grew up in the City of
5 Providence's Mount Hope section and attended Providence College. She taught history and civics
6 in the Providence public schools for almost ten years, and earned her law degree in 2004, taking
7 classes at night at Roger Williams University School of Law. From 2005 to 2008, she was
8 employed in the criminal division of the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Dubose subsequently served as senior legal counsel at Schneider
10 Electric in Foxboro where she provided in-house counsel, and in 2018, she was nominated to the
11 State District Court by then-Governor Gina Raimondo; and

12 WHEREAS, Highly regarded throughout the Rhode Island legal community, Judge
13 DuBose has been hailed by her peers as an exceptional jurist, with impeccable ethics and a stellar
14 record, who is "supremely qualified" and well regarded in the community; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 1, 2025, Judge Dubose will fill the seat being vacated by U.S.
16 District Court Judge William E. Smith, and will begin hearing civil, criminal and maritime
17 matters on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island; and

18 WHEREAS, Judge DuBose will bring much needed ethnic diversity to the bench, which
19 in turn will improve judicial decision-making and inspire public confidence in the courts by

1 supplying a different perspective, restricting biases, and by providing a more realistic and genuine
2 reflection of American society; and

3 WHEREAS, Judge Melissa DuBose is eminently deserving of the leadership and trust
4 she has been afforded. Her dedication to public service and unwavering determination, work ethic
5 and brilliant legal mind have earned her resounding praise and she has wholly distinguished
6 herself as a person worthy of our recognition and admiration; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
8 congratulates Judge Melissa R. Dubose on her historic confirmation to the United States District
9 Court in Rhode Island, and extends best wishes for her continued success, health and fulfillment;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Melissa DuBose.

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