

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF OUR VENERATED COLLEAGUE,
THE HONORABLE J. MICHAEL LENIHAN**

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Paiva Weed, Cote, Sosnowski, and Gee

Date Introduced: April 15, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and profound sympathy that we mourn the passing of
2 our beloved friend and colleague, J. Michael Lenihan, a gracious and good man who made
3 significant contributions to the quality of life within our state; and

4 WHEREAS, Michael Lenihan was a devoted family man. He was the husband of forty-
5 six years to Patricia Lenihan, the father of Meghan Lenihan, father-in-law of Todd Magiera, and
6 the very proud grandfather of Victoria and Bryanna. He is also survived by his sister, Martha
7 Lenihan-Lavieri and her husband, Jon; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Lenihan was a lifelong learner and champion of education. He
9 graduated from Scituate High School, received his Bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College,
10 his Master's degree from Brown University, and for more than twenty-eight years, taught English,
11 American Studies, Early Enrollment, and Advanced Placement classes before retiring. In
12 addition, he was an Adjunct Professor at Rhode Island College and a coach for various school
13 varsity and junior varsity sports teams; and

14 WHEREAS, The exceptional contributions and accomplishments of J. Michael Lenihan
15 spanned a long and impressive career, and resulted in substantial benefits in the lives of many
16 Rhode Islanders. He contributed his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors
17 and served as a Rhode Island Senator for more than two decades, spending countless hours, long
18 into the night, on numerous committees and at a plethora of hearings; and

19 WHEREAS, As a strong and respected voice in the chamber, Senator Lenihan had served

1 as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Chair of the Senate Committee on Government
2 Oversight, Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, and was a member of the Senate
3 Committee on Environment & Agriculture; and

4 WHEREAS, A visionary advocate, Michael Lenihan championed public access to online
5 legislation, and legislation on separation of powers, open meetings, vendor disclosure, public
6 access to public records, and improvements in the governance of quasi-public commissions,
7 public officials accountability, state contracts with employee leasing companies, as well as issues
8 affecting Narragansett Bay, to name just a few; and

9 WHEREAS, Michael Lenihan was also a member and held leadership positions with a
10 panoply of organizations including: the National Council of State Legislatures; The Council on
11 State Government, Executive Committee-Eastern Regional; Vice-Chair of the South County
12 Caucus; Member of the Quonset-Davisville Management Corporation; President, Vice-President,
13 and member of the East Greenwich Town Council; Member of the Nature Conservancy, Save the
14 Bay, and the Sierra Club; and the Founder of the East Greenwich Land Trust; and

15 WHEREAS, The proud recipient of countless awards and accolades during his lifetime,
16 Michael Lenihan was honored with the "Margaret Langdon Kelly Award" from Meeting Street
17 School, the "Golden Broom" from Operation Clean Government, three-time recipient of the
18 "Public Service Achievement Award" by Common Cause, twice selected as "Legislator of the
19 Year" by the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District, and named "Legislator of the Year"
20 by the Rhode Island Rivers Council; and

21 WHEREAS, We can think of few men who had such a positive impact and demonstrated
22 such impressive dedication to others as J. Michael Lenihan and he will be dearly missed; now,
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
25 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the family of The Honorable J. Michael Lenihan on
26 his passing. We further avow that he will forever be warmly remembered by this membership
27 and the citizens of Rhode Island for the profundity and generosity of his heart and his deeds, and
28 for the lifetime of service he bestowed on the people of this state; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
30 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Patricia Lenihan and Meghan Lenihan and
31 Family.

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