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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING A MORATORIUM ON ALL UNFUNDED MANDATES

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Felag, Crowley, Cote, and Maher

Date Introduced: January 13, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The national economy has resulted in revenue deficits in states throughout
2 the country, including the State of Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Unemployment has risen to over 10 percent nationally and over 13 percent
4 in the State of Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, The challenged economy has placed an additional burden on taxpayers to
6 meet rising costs and debt interest, with wages that have been lost, reduced, or that have failed to
7 keep pace with the cost of living; and

8 WHEREAS, The deficit in revenues in the state has resulted in a decrease in state aid to
9 cities and towns, thereby placing an additional financial burden on local taxpayers; and

10 WHEREAS, Local governments in the state are struggling to provide essential services to
11 their citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the last several decades, the State of Rhode Island has issued certain
13 mandates to cities and towns, through the general laws and regulations, which place the burden of
14 cost on local communities; and

15 WHEREAS, A number of these unfunded mandates have resulted in costs to local
16 communities that have not been reimbursed by the state; and

17 WHEREAS, The Department of Administration reviewed the FY2006 expenses
18 submitted by ten municipalities in Rhode Island and approved over \$1.129 million of expenses
19 that were eligible for reimbursement in 2009 but were unable to be reimbursed due to the
20 economy; and

1 WHEREAS, Some mandates have diminished in impact and importance over time, while
2 other mandates require a specific costly response which may have a more cost-effective
3 alternative proposed by a local community; and

4 WHEREAS, Cities and towns in the state have begun to collaborate on shared services
5 and other mechanisms to maintain the delivery of services to their citizens in more cost-effective
6 ways; and

7 WHEREAS, Cities and towns are most familiar with efficient means of meeting state
8 mandates; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby supports a moratorium on all unfunded mandates and further requests that the Town of
11 Coventry be granted the right to work toward meeting state mandates through whatever local
12 policy currently exists or may be established at the local level; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the Coventry Town Council
15 and the Chairperson of the Coventry School Committee.

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