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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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

**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO LIFT THE FEDERAL BAN ON SPORTS
WAGERING**

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, McBurney, and Doyle

Date Introduced: January 13, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, Since January 1, 1993, the federal “Professional and Amateur Sports
2 Protection Act,” 28 U.S.C ss.3701 et seq., prohibits states and local governments from
3 authorizing sports wagering; and

4 WHEREAS, Under the terms of the federal law, Nevada is the only state where sports
5 wagering is legally permitted, and this activity has resulted in substantial direct and indirect
6 revenues to that state’s economy; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Nevada Gaming Control Board, about \$81.5 million was
8 legally wagered in Nevada on the 2009 Super Bowl game alone, and the 2009 Super Bowl
9 weekend generated an approximate \$109.5 million non-gaming economic impact, as the game
10 attracted 287,000 visitors to Las Vegas; and

11 WHEREAS, It is estimated that Nevada’s legal sports wagering represents less than 1%
12 of all sports wagering nationwide; and

13 WHEREAS, In fact, according to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission,
14 illegal sports wagering amounts to about \$380 billion each year; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal sports wagering ban is not effective in curbing illegal sport
16 gambling, so that lifting the ban on sports wagering would allow state gaming enforcement
17 agencies to properly regulate and police this activity; and

18 WHEREAS, An end to the federal ban and the legalization of sports wagering would
19 significantly benefit the State of Rhode Island by generating additional income and by enhancing

1 tourism; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
3 Plantations hereby respectfully urges the United States Congress to remove the federal ban on
4 sports wagering; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the majority and minority leaders of the United
7 States Congress, and to each member of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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