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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**COMMEMORATING THE 166TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
INDEPENDENCE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2010**

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, and Metts

Date Introduced: February 25, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the people of the Dominican Republic, and all free  
2 people, will celebrate 166 years of Dominican Independence; and

3           WHEREAS, The seat of the original capital of the Spanish New World, the Dominican  
4 Republic, proclaims a host of American firsts: the first permanent European settlement, the first  
5 university, the first church, the first cathedral, the first mass, and the first royal court; and

6           WHEREAS, The French established the colony of Haiti on the western part of the island,  
7 and in 1804 the slaves there revolted, achieving freedom. In 1822, the Haitians gained control  
8 over the entire island for the next 22 years until 1844, when the Dominican Republic became  
9 liberated from Haitian domination. On February 27, 1844, the Declaration of Independence was  
10 written by Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosaro Sanchez, and Ramon Matias Mella; and

11           WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic's record for free and fair elections sets an example  
12 for emerging democracies the world over; and

13           WHEREAS, Today, the Dominican Republic has a close relationship with the United  
14 States and has been supportive of many U.S. initiatives, including the fight against trafficking in  
15 illegal substances; and

16           WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic has accredited diplomatic missions in most of the  
17 countries in the Western Hemisphere and in principal European capitals, and belongs to many  
18 world organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Labor  
19 Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation

1 Organization, and the Inter-American Development Bank; and

2 WHEREAS, Over one million Dominicans now reside in the United States and are an  
3 important element in the special relationship between the two countries. Rhode Island's  
4 Dominicans number among the state's smaller ethnic groups but the community imparts a rich  
5 history and vitality through their presence in Rhode Island. The strong business ethic within  
6 Rhode Island's Dominican community and local businesses owned by Dominican immigrants are  
7 evidenced by their myriad contributions, greatly adding to the economic vitality of our state; and

8 WHEREAS, The Dominican-American community plays another essential role through  
9 their representation in the United States Armed Services. Many Dominican-Americans have made  
10 the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives defending America's liberty, security, and freedoms; now,  
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
13 hereby commemorates the 166<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dominican Republic Independence on February  
14 27, 2010, and proudly recognizes the significant contributions that Dominicans have made to the  
15 State of Rhode Island and the United States; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to His Excellency President Leonel Fernandez  
18 Reyna.

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