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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL "RACE TO THE TOP" GRANT PROGRAM AND URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO SUBMIT A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION FOR THE RACE TO THE TOP ROUND TWO

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, DeVall, P Fogarty, Maselli, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: May 19, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has built a strong foundation for school improvement,  
2 including high-quality educational standards and assessments, a high school graduation system  
3 with multiple measures, promising initial work intervening in underperforming schools, and a  
4 growing charter school community; and

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is engaged in  
6 creating a system of education in Rhode Island that prepares our students for success in college,  
7 careers, and life; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has identified Five  
9 Priorities For Transforming Rhode Island Education: Ensure Educator Excellence, Accelerate All  
10 Schools Towards Greatness, Establish World Class Standards and Assessments, Develop User-  
11 Friendly Data Systems, and Invest Our Resources Wisely; and

12 WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has made available \$4.35  
13 billion for competitive Race To The Top grants to the states that make progress toward statewide  
14 goals; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education has stated that the Race To The  
16 Top grants will focus on the following four reforms: college and career-ready standards and high  
17 quality assessments for all students; pre-K to higher education data systems; teacher effectiveness  
18 and equitable distribution of effective teachers; and intensive support and effective interventions

1 for the lowest performing schools. These reforms align closely with Rhode Island’s priorities; and

2 WHEREAS, Race To The Top grants are intended to save and create jobs and to reform  
3 education, drive results for students, increase capacity, accelerate reform, and foster continuous  
4 improvement; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has an opportunity to use federal stimulus funding to be more  
6 innovative and creative in education investments, and the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne  
7 Duncan has maintained, “States that are simply investing in the status quo will put themselves at  
8 a tremendous competitive disadvantage” in their application for Race To The Top funds; now,  
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence  
11 Plantations hereby supports the Rhode Island application for a federal Round Two Race To The  
12 Top grant. The General Assembly urges the Governor and the Department of Elementary and  
13 Secondary Education to submit a competitive application to pursue the four reforms as outlined  
14 by the Unites States Department of Education and as described above. This application should  
15 involve stakeholder input within Rhode Island and should reflect national and international best  
16 practices; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode  
19 Island and the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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