

2012 -- S 2962

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LC02577
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

JOINT RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION 3797

Introduced By: Senators Bates, Felag, Ciccone, Goodwin, and Crowley

Date Introduced: May 17, 2012

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

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

4 WHEREAS, Under the terms of the federal law, Delaware, Nevada, Montana, and
5 Oregon are the only states where sports wagering is legally permitted, and this activity has
6 resulted in substantial direct and indirect revenues to those state’s economies; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 23rd of 2012, H.R. 3797 entitled the “Sports Gaming
8 Opportunity Act of 2012” was introduced in the United States Congress; and

9 WHEREAS, If enacted, this legislation would amend chapter 178 of title 28 of the United
10 States Code entitled, the “Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act,” to permit any state to
11 enact statutes by January 1st of 2016, that would exempt certain lotteries, sweepstakes, and other
12 betting, gambling, or wagering schemes involving professional and amateur sports from the
13 operation of this chapter; and

14 WHEREAS, The current federal sports wagering ban has not been effective in curbing
15 illegal sport gambling. Lifting the ban on sports wagering would allow state gaming enforcement
16 agencies to properly regulate and police this activity; and

17 WHEREAS, Amending the federal ban and opening a window of opportunity to legalize
18 sports wagering would significantly benefit the State of Rhode Island by generating considerable
19 revenues; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
2 Plantations hereby respectfully urges the United States Congress to support passage of House
3 Resolution 3797 in order to allow Rhode Island to enact statues that would exempt certain forms
4 of betting, gambling, and wagering involving professional and amateur sports; 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 Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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