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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

**HONORING SENATOR ROGER A. PICARD FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Ruggiero, and Gallo

Date Introduced: June 13, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In April of 2008, Senator Roger A. Picard was elected to the Rhode Island
2 Senate in a special election, representing the citizens of Woonsocket and Cumberland in what is
3 now, District 20, and has since been reelected by his constituency seven times. He had previously
4 served in the Rhode Island House of Representatives from 1993 until 2008; and

5 WHEREAS, Widely respected by his peers, Senator Picard was named Senate Deputy
6 President Pro Tempore in 2021, and is also the Chair of the Senate Committee on Housing &
7 Municipal Government, is Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, and is a member
8 of the Senate Committee on Labor; and

9 WHEREAS, With a broad knowledge of both the legislative process and a vast
10 understanding of myriad issues, Senator Picard has sponsored and championed numerous bills
11 throughout his years in the Senate including, legislation amending the Hospital Conversion Act,
12 several bills to boost small businesses, legislation aimed at assisting truck drivers and
13 streamlining the commercial driver's license process, and a bill significantly lowering the
14 manufacturing and wholesale licensing fee for alcohol manufacturers; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, Senator Picard has lent his expertise to the areas of education
16 and the environment with legislation allowing school districts to conduct virtual instruction
17 during inclement weather and emergencies, a bill that allows students to make up lost school days
18 through at-home learning, a resolution seeking a statewide ballot vote on a constitutional
19 amendment to guarantee "an equitable, adequate and meaningful education to each child", a law

1 authorizing an alternative treatment for opioid addiction, and a law requiring the creation of
2 pathways and workforce training programs in the clean-energy sector as part of the Senate's Grow
3 Green Jobs RI initiative; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Picard has earned not only the trust of his constituency but was also
5 honored by Rhode Island AARP with its 2016 Capitol Caregivers award, recognizing his
6 sponsorship of a law that allows single-family homeowners to construct or use accessory
7 dwellings to care for older family members; and

8 WHEREAS, A consummate gentleman, Senator Picard could always be counted on for
9 his warm smile, the sincerity of his convictions, and his sharp dress, including a boutonniere on
10 his lapel each Thursday; and

11 WHEREAS, Making his home in the City of Woonsocket, Senator Picard is the husband
12 of Diane Picard and the father of three children, Nicole, Kristen and Caitlyn. He earned his
13 Bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, a Master's degree in Social Work from
14 Rhode Island College, and a Master's degree in theological studies from Providence College. In
15 addition to his long hours at the State House, he works as a social worker for the Woonsocket
16 School Department; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Picard serves as a model of dedicated and conscientious civic
18 service and has earned the respect and the gratitude of the citizens in his community and the
19 people of this State for making Rhode Island a better place to live and grow; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby honors and thanks
21 Senator Roger A. Picard for his service to the people of this State and wishes him good health,
22 fulfillment, and continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Roger Picard.

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