

2023 -- S 0984

LC003009

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 TO RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE FOR THE RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES PROGRAM (RIVESP)

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Cano, Ciccone, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: May 15, 2023

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Sherlock Task Force was charged with establishing recommendations
2 that would provide ongoing funding for the Rhode Island Vision Education and Services Program
3 (RIVESP) which was created by legislation in 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the course of meetings held in 2021 and 2022, the Task Force heard
5 testimony, and reviewed presentation material, pertaining to critical issues related to vision
6 services and the Sherlock Center including funding, staffing, governance and structure, the need
7 for operational improvements, and the use of alternative programs by certain municipalities; and

8 WHEREAS, The Task Force's recommendations for governance and structure initiatives
9 that would improve RIVESP operations include:

- 10 • Appointing a full-time director of the program who will:
 - 11 o Have full decision-making authority;
 - 12 o Develop and manage the program's budget; and
 - 13 o Develop staffing policies to ensure the highest quality education.
- 14 • Establish a Board of Directors to:
 - 15 o Provide community oversight;
 - 16 o Identify the educational needs of students; and
 - 17 o Develop educational policies to meet the needs of the students; and

18 WHEREAS, A State budget line item appropriation is essential to the continued
19 operation and success of RIVESP; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
2 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of three million dollars
3 (\$3,000,000) to Rhode Island College for the Rhode Island Vision Education and Services
4 Program (RIVESP) which shall include the IDEA Part B State Discretionary Funds; and the state
5 controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the
6 payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of
7 properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 TO RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE FOR THE
RHODE ISLAND VISION EDUCATION AND SERVICES PROGRAM (RIVESP)

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$3,000,000 to Rhode
- 2 Island College for the Rhode Island Vision Education and Services Program.

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