

2024 -- H 8120

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGER WILLIAMS
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Introduced By: Representatives Batista, Kazarian, Potter, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,
Marszalkowski, Vella-Wilkinson, Chippendale, Shanley, and Kennedy
Date Introduced: April 02, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Roger Williams University School of Law is located in Bristol, Rhode
2 Island, and is the only law school in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Roger Williams University School of Law was established in 1993 after an
4 exploratory committee, chaired by the late Rhode Island Chief Justice Joseph Weisberger,
5 recommended the creation of a law school in Rhode Island. The mission of the Roger Williams
6 University School of Law "is to prepare students for success in the public and private sectors and
7 to promote social justice and the rule of law through engaged teaching, learning, and
8 scholarship"; and

9 WHEREAS, The Roger Williams University School of Law enrolls approximately 370
10 students and has a faculty ratio close to 13:1., has been accredited by the American Bar
11 Association since 1997, and has been a member of the Association of American law schools since
12 2006. It is also one of the few law schools in the nation that offers a focus on maritime law and
13 has become a national leader in that field; and

14 WHEREAS, From its humble beginnings in 1993, with a class of 110 full-time students
15 and 74 extended division students, the Roger Williams University School of Law has grown to
16 become one of the most active and effective law schools in the nation. Its legal clinics and pro
17 bono programs serve Rhode Island's diverse population exceedingly well, with a particular focus
18 on helping members of Rhode Island's underserved communities. The School of Law is also a
19 leader in the fight for equality and justice for all Americans. The school has most recently

1 established a new Institute for Race and the Law that will help lead the way in training future
2 lawyers on how to effect true justice on this most important issue within American society; and

3 WHEREAS, The Roger Williams University School of Law offers a legal education that
4 focuses on the development of each student's analytical, ethical and legal skills through a deep
5 exploration of United States legal history and doctrine, as well as the study of the interaction
6 between American history and public policy and its relationship and interaction with the law and
7 society. Students are offered ample opportunities to provide pro bono services to individuals,
8 organizations, policy-makers, the legal profession, journalists and elected officials; and

9 WHEREAS, The Roger Williams University School of Law and its esteemed Dean,
10 Gregory W. Bowman, M.A., J.D., understand the struggle so many people face today to pay for
11 college, graduate school and law school, and, as a result, has strived to keep its tuition as low as
12 possible. In the 2023-2024 Academic year, the Roger Williams University School of Law has the
13 lowest tuition in the Northeast, while at the same time providing an excellent law education, as
14 shown by the school's graduates Bar passage rate of 78 percent, its top ten rank for federal and
15 state clerkships, its top ten ranking for "Faculty Accessibility", and, most importantly, the fact
16 that 76.7 percent of its 2017 graduating class obtained full-time, long-term, J.D. required
17 employment within nine months after graduation; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
19 joyously celebrates the thirtieth Anniversary of the creation of the Roger Williams University
20 School of Law; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Roger Williams University School of Law
23 Dean, Gregory W. Bowman, M.A., J.D.

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