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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING ELIZA REID, RENOWNED WRITER AND FORMER FIRST LADY OF ICELAND, TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Valverde, Lauria, Tikoian, Sosnowski, Rogers, LaMountain, Urso, Appollonio, and Britto
Date Introduced: May 15, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Eliza Reid grew up on a farm near Ottawa, Canada. She later moved to
2 Ashton and was a student at Trinity College, University of Toronto, where she earned her
3 Bachelor's degree in International Relations, and later attained her Master's degree in Modern
4 History from St. Antony's College, Oxford University; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2003, Eliza Reid moved to Iceland and became a freelance writer for
6 multiple Icelandic publications. From 2005 to 2008, she wrote for The Reykjavík Grapevine and
7 Iceland Review, and in 2012, she became an editor for Icelandair Stopover. In 2014, she co-
8 founded the Iceland Writers Retreat, an event which has garnered international acclaim; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2004, Eliza Reid married Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, and in 2016, became
10 the First Lady of Iceland when her husband became the country's sixth President. During her
11 tenure as first lady, Eliza actively sought opportunities to advance and bring focus on gender
12 equality, entrepreneurship and innovation, tourism and sustainability. She also supported and
13 encouraged the country's writers and promoted its rich literary heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, A bestselling author, Eliza Reid wrote [Secrets of the Sprakkar: Iceland's](#)
15 [Extraordinary Women and How They Are Changing the World](#), published in 2022, and [Death on](#)
16 [the Island](#), also known as [Death of a Diplomat](#), published in 2025; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Eliza Reid has been a patron of many Icelandic
18 organizations, including the United Nations Association Iceland, is a Goodwill Ambassador for
19 SOS Children's Villages Iceland, was named a United Nations Special Ambassador for Tourism

1 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and has been honored with numerous nominations for
2 'Person of the Year' by multiple Icelandic media outlets, and honored in Berlin with an award on
3 International Women's Day; and

4 WHEREAS, Eliza Reid has brought a panoply of opportunities and a wealth of literacy to
5 the people of Iceland and the world, and she has distinguished herself as a person worthy of our
6 recognition and admiration; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby warmly welcomes
8 Eliza Reid to the Rhode Island State House. We furthermore congratulate her and wish her good
9 health, fulfillment, and much success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Eliza Reid.

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