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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND THANKING CHARLES KELLEY FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY  
(RISLA)

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Spears, Chippendale, Kennedy,  
Fogarty, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, and Serpa

Date Introduced: April 02, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Charles Kelley joined RISLA in April of 1991, and was appointed  
2 Executive Director in 1993, earning him the distinction of being the longest serving Executive  
3 Director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority; and

4           WHEREAS, In that capacity, Mr. Kelley has led RISLA to the forefront of the country's  
5 premiere non-federal college lending institutions, directed in-house technology development of  
6 proprietary loan origination software and native mobile applications, and established the first  
7 nonprofit in the country to offer refinancing of higher education; and

8           WHEREAS, Highly regarded among his peers, Mr. Kelley founded and continues to  
9 sponsor the College Planning Centers of RI, and is credited with working "tirelessly to expand the  
10 variety of programs and services available to students and their families at all income levels..."  
11 all of which have afforded thousands of Rhode Island's high school students with comprehensive  
12 college planning and financial aid services; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley attended the University of Rhode Island and earned his Master's  
14 degree in public administration from Harvard University. In addition to his work at RISLA, he  
15 has served on the Board of the Education Finance Council as well as a two-year term as  
16 Chairman, and is a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst; and

17           WHEREAS, Active in many endeavors throughout his career, Mr. Kelley is often a  
18 featured speaker at various finance conferences, is a member of the Investment Committee and  
19 Finance Committee for South County Hospital and the Investment Committee for the South

1 County Land Trust, and is a past mentor in Brown University's Entrepreneurship Program: and

2 WHEREAS, Charles Kelley retired in January of 2026, leaving a legacy of dedicated  
3 leadership and conscientious civic service, and he is enormously worthy of our emulation and  
4 acknowledgement; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
6 recognizes and thanks Charles Kelley on the occasion of his retirement after three decades of  
7 dedicated service. We moreover wish him good health, fulfillment and continued success in all  
8 his future endeavors; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Charles Kelley.

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