

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2022, AS THE 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE
UNITED STATES**

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Kallman, Gallo, Felag, and Euer

Date Introduced: March 22, 2022

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation
2 reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of
3 oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by
4 the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful war of Independence (1821-
5 1829) and re-instituted a democratic form of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The People of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance
7 to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

8 WHEREAS, The price for the people of Greece to hold onto their common values in their
9 region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British
12 Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict over the
13 last 100 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,
15 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel, and demonstrates religious
16 tolerance; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ancient Macedonians were Hellenes and the northern Province of
18 Greece, Macedonia and the Hellenic descendants; and

19 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,

1 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Many American Philhellenes participated and fought in the Greek War of
3 Independence. One such individual was George Wilson from Providence, Rhode Island, who
4 served as a gunman in the Greek fleet, most notably in the battle against the Turkish navy in
5 Nafpaktos Bay, Greece; and

6 WHEREAS, Former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Greece on
7 October 4, 2019, where he met with Greek leaders and together they signed the Mutual Defense
8 Corporation Agreement (MDCA); and

9 WHEREAS, Turkey has continued to destabilize the Aegean Sea and the Eastern
10 Mediterranean Sea Region. As a result, the United States Department of State continues to
11 strongly support regional efforts that enhance and promote cooperation and regional stability,
12 including the 2+1 mechanism in which the Republic of Cyprus (ROC), Greece, Israel and the
13 United States participate. The United States department of State also supports projects such as the
14 planned Greece Africa Power interconnector from Egypt to Crete and the Greek mainland, and
15 the proposed EuroAsian interconnector to link the Israeli, Cypriot, and European electricity grids;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A high-level review of the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue took
18 place in Greece on September 28, 2020, which underscored Greece's importance to the United
19 States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important
20 NATO ally; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates March 25,
22 2022, as the 201st Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding
23 commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey
24 to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of
27 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek
28 Orthodox Church of Newport, members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the
29 Honorable Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Boston, Archbishop
30 Elpidophoros of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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