

**2012 -- H 7930**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING MARCH 8, 2012, AS "CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DAY" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Hull, Corvese, and Serpa

Date Introduced: March 08, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Catholic schools ensure a complete academic and values-based education  
2 emphasizing the moral, intellectual, physical, and social development of young people throughout  
3 Rhode Island and the nation; and

4           WHEREAS, Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith,  
5 values, families, and communities, by providing a safe, disciplined, and intellectually stimulating  
6 environment rich in spiritual character and moral development for children of every creed and  
7 color; and

8           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's Catholic schools are acclaimed for their academic  
9 excellence. Their elementary school students consistently score above the norm in national  
10 standardized tests in all subject areas, and their high school graduation rate is nearly 100 percent,  
11 with almost 95 percent of those graduates going on to college; and

12           WHEREAS, There are currently 43 Catholic elementary schools in the state with an  
13 enrollment of an estimated 15,000 students; and

14           WHEREAS, Rhode Island Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students and have  
15 provided more than \$1 million in tuition assistance to low-income families; and

16           WHEREAS, Educational research demonstrates that Catholic schools, better than any  
17 other type of school, successfully close the learning achievement gap between children from high  
18 and low socioeconomic groups; and

19           WHEREAS, Catholic schools provide millions of dollars in education and construction

1 savings to the state and local communities in Rhode Island every year; and

2 WHEREAS, Catholic school alumni, students, teachers, and parents contribute to, are  
3 involved in, and are dedicated to the life of their parishes and communities well beyond their  
4 numbers; and

5 WHEREAS, The 1997 Congregation of Catholic Education in Rome stated in their letter  
6 on Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium: “The Catholic school, therefore,  
7 undertakes a cordial and constructive dialogue with states and civil authorities. Such dialogue  
8 and collaboration must be based on mutual respect, on the reciprocal recognition of each other’s  
9 role and on a common service to mankind. To achieve this end, the Catholic school willingly  
10 occupies its place within the school system of the different countries and in the legislation of the  
11 individual states, when the latter respect the fundamental rights of the human person, starting with  
12 respect for life and religious freedom”; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
14 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims March 8<sup>th</sup> of 2012 to be "Catholic Schools Day" in the  
15 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we applaud the efforts and support the goals of Rhode Island  
17 “Catholic Schools Day," an event sponsored by the Rhode Island Catholic Schools Parents  
18 Federation. We furthermore congratulate the students, parents, teachers, and administrators for  
19 their ongoing contributions to the education of Rhode Island's youth, and for the key role they  
20 play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the State of Rhode Island; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of  
24 Providence, Mr. Daniel Ferris, Superintendent for Catholic Schools, and the Chair of the Board of  
25 Directors for the Rhode Island Catholic Schools Parents Federation.

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