

2012 -- H 8193

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LC02646  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING GOVERNOR CHAFEE TO CEASE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS  
THAT ARE PREVENTING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND/OR AGENCIES FROM  
SURRENDERING JASON PLEAU TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Costa, Baldelli-Hunt, Chippendale, Palumbo, and Edwards

Date Introduced: May 23, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

1           WHEREAS, In 2010, Jason Pleau, then serving a sentence in a Rhode Island state prison  
2 for parole and probation violations, was charged with armed robbery and the murder of gas  
3 station manager, David Main, during a botched robbery outside a Citizens Bank branch in  
4 Woonsocket; and

5           WHEREAS, Governor Chafee refused to transfer Pleau into federal custody because  
6 doing so would expose Pleau, a Rhode Island citizen, to possible death-penalty prosecution in  
7 federal court; and

8           WHEREAS, Rhode Island does not have a death penalty statute, which puts the federal  
9 law in direct contravention with this state's longstanding rejection of capital punishment; and

10           WHEREAS, Pleau agreed to plead guilty to state charges and thus continued the legal  
11 tug-of-war custody battle between the State of Rhode Island and Federal authorities that  
12 continues to this day; and

13           WHEREAS, The case could very well be headed to the United States Supreme Court,  
14 which would be an extremely costly undertaking for our state; and

15           WHEREAS, There is also an intangible human cost associated with continuing this legal  
16 matter. Those who knew and loved Mr. Main must endure even more headlines and heartbreak  
17 associated with living in a state that is, in essence, shielding a murderer; and

18           WHEREAS, In addition, the federal government and its agents are being prevented from  
19 carrying out their responsibilities, which puts a strain on our state's relationship with these

1 authorities; now, therefore be it

2           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
3 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully urges the Governor to immediately release Jason  
4 Pleau into federal custody; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to The Honorable Lincoln Chafee, Governor of  
7 the State of Rhode Island.

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