

2012 -- H 8196

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LC02630
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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

**PROCLAIMING MAY 23, 2012, AS "SHAPE UP RHODE ISLAND DAY" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Newberry, Bennett, and McNamara

Date Introduced: May 23, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Obesity in the United States has reached epidemic proportions. More than
2 one-third of adults living in the United States are obese. Obesity-related conditions such as heart
3 disease, stroke, type two diabetes, and certain types of cancer are some of the leading causes of
4 death; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2008 medical costs
6 associated with obesity were estimated at \$147 billion, and the medical costs paid by third-party
7 payors for people who are obese was \$1,429 higher than those for individuals of normal weight;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Obesity also significantly affects children. Approximately 17 percent of
10 children and adolescents are obese. Since 1980, obesity prevalence among children and
11 adolescents has almost tripled; and

12 WHEREAS, States can and must take a proactive role in increasing wellness and
13 decreasing obesity. States can directly fund those programs that encourage activity and healthy
14 lifestyles. They can draw public attention to the ramifications of unhealthy practices. States can
15 organize broad, powerful, and sustained efforts to focus on prevention, adopt proven strategies,
16 and reverse the obesity epidemic; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 2005, Shape Up Rhode Island has used teamwork, social networking,
18 and healthy competition to make significant, positive changes and health advances in the lives of
19 70,000 Rhode Islanders; and

1 WHEREAS, Shape Up Rhode Island’s chairman, Rajiv Kumar, MD, has dedicated
2 himself to addressing the obesity epidemic in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Shape Up Rhode Island has educated individuals in all thirty-nine towns and
4 cities about the importance of developing healthier eating practices and increasing physical
5 activity; and

6 WHEREAS, Shape Up Rhode Island has been a nationally-recognized, award winning
7 statewide wellness competition; and

8 WHEREAS, Shape Up Rhode Island’s evidence-based program has been validated by
9 studies published in peer reviewed journals; and

10 WHEREAS, Shape Up Rhode Island has encouraged thousands of Rhode Islanders
11 through collaboration with employers, educational institutions, community leaders, non-profit
12 organizations, and the Rhode Island Department of Health; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims May 23, 2012, as “Shape Up Rhode Island Day.” This
15 House urges all the citizens of the State to take an active role in increasing their wellness and
16 quality of life; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the chairman of Shape Up Rhode Island, Rajiv
19 Kumar, MD.

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