

2012 -- S 2063

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE
ACTION TO MAKE THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND ELIGIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, Felag, Ciccone, Nesselbush, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 11, 2012

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland is a free, democratic, and independent nation; and

2 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland is an integral member of the European Union and
3 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

4 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland has been and continues to be a proven,
5 indispensable, loyal friend and ally of the United States in the global campaign against terrorism
6 in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, All citizens of the nations constituting the European Union enjoy travel to
8 the United States visa-free as provided by the Visa Waiver Program of the United States
9 Department of State, except for the citizens of Poland, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, and Romania;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The state legislatures of Massachusetts (May 2004), New Jersey (October
12 2004), Vermont (January 2005), Pennsylvania (April 2005), Connecticut and Maine (May 2005),
13 Nebraska, New York, and Ohio (June 2005), Michigan (June 2006), Arizona (April 2007),
14 Illinois (October 2007), and Massachusetts again (July 2010) passed Visa Waiver for Poland
15 Resolutions in response to their American citizens of Polish decent; and

16 WHEREAS, Among the nearly ten million Americans of Polish descent in the nation, the
17 46,707 Americans of Polish descent in Rhode Island also are disappointed and dismayed that
18 Poland, the nation that provided America with the services of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who
19 engineered the victory at Saratoga and designed the fortifications at West Point, and Casimir

1 Pulaski, the “father of the United States Calvary” during our “Glorious Cause” in the War for
2 Independence from Great Britain, is currently excluded from our nation’s Visa Waiver Program;
3 now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
5 hereby respectfully urges the Congress and the President of the United States to take immediate
6 action to make the Republic of Poland eligible for the United States Department of State’s Visa
7 Waiver Program; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, The Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the clerk of House of Representatives, the
10 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland
11 Security, the Presiding Officers of each chamber of the United States Congress, the members of
12 the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and to His Excellency Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador
13 of the Republic of Poland to the United States.

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