

2012 -- S 2306

=====
LC01180
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN PONTA DELGADA,
AZORES

Introduced By: Senators DaPonte, Paiva Weed, Nesselbush, Metts, and DeVall

Date Introduced: February 02, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has indicated that it is currently
2 reviewing its diplomatic missions worldwide and that the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada,
3 Azores, is under review for possible closure; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1795, the United States has maintained ties of friendship and common
5 purpose with the people of Portugal's Azores Autonomous Region, a group of nine islands
6 spanning 350 miles in the Central Atlantic. The U.S. Consulate in the Azores is the oldest
7 continuously operating U.S. Consulate in the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Annually, 14,000 American citizens travel to the Azores; and

9 WHEREAS, The closure of the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada would create hardship
10 for American citizens in the Azores as the nearest services for American citizens would be the
11 U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, 950 miles away; and

12 WHEREAS, The Consulate provides full consular services to the many American
13 citizens visiting the Azores, including safeguarding their security and well-being, and
14 administering visa and other consular functions; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, the Consulate maintains ties of partnership and friendship with
16 our country and the people and government of Portugal's Azores Autonomous Region, and assists
17 educational, commercial, and cultural exchanges between the United States and the Azores,
18 especially in renewable energy and green technology development, business, and tourism; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada has upheld a 200-year tradition of
2 defending American interests and American citizens in the Azores and is an essential resource to
3 the Portuguese-American community of Azorean descent as well as myriad citizens of our state;
4 now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby respectfully requests United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to continue
7 operations at, and support for, The U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada, Azores; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the
10 United States Ambassador to Portugal, Allan Katz, and the Rhode Island Congressional
11 Delegation.

=====
LC01180
=====