

2012 -- S 2743

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Goodwin, DaPonte, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 08, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

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 Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby proclaims March 8th of 2012 to be "Catholic Schools Day" in the State of Rhode Island;
15 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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