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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARGARET (PEG) LAURENCE

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Nesselbush, Paiva Weed, Hodgson, and Algieri

Date Introduced: March 14, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Margaret
2 (Peg) Agnes Laurence, a woman who was deeply devoted to her family and friends. Our thoughts
3 and hearts hold great empathy and sorrow for her family. We grieve with her partner of thirty-two
4 years, Lise Iwon, her siblings Robert, Clare Dunn, William, and Thomas Henry, her extended
5 family of Dana Iwon, Michael Iwon, and Toby Prioletta, and her nieces, nephews, and
6 grandnieces, on their tremendous loss; and

7 WHEREAS, Peg graduated from the University of Rhode Island, then worked for Rhode
8 Island Blue Cross and Lever Brothers. She returned to school and graduated summa cum laude
9 from Rhode Island College, with a masters degree in counseling education; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1982, Peg received a Juris Doctorate from Franklin Pierce Law Center,
11 now the University of New Hampshire Law School. For twenty-nine years, Peg and her partner
12 Lise, operated Laurence & Iwon, Attorneys at Law, with world headquarters in Wakefield, Rhode
13 Island; and

14 WHEREAS, Peg was a lawyer, mentor, teacher, philanthropist, civil libertarian, and
15 business woman who enjoyed sailing and playing golf; and

16 WHEREAS, Peg was a tenacious fighter and a zealous advocate. She was deeply
17 involved in numerous community activities, ranging from the arts and theater, to the
18 disenfranchised and victims of all forms of discrimination and abuse. Her vision, leadership,
19 compassion, and generosity created change that improved the quality of lives throughout the
20 Rhode Island community; and

1 WHEREAS, Peg served on several boards, including Domestic Violence Resource
2 Center of South County, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, Perspectives Corporation, Ocean
3 State Theatre Company, and The Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, and was active with Day One,
4 the Rhode Island affiliate of the ACLU, the Rhode Island Bar Association, Rhode Island Legal
5 Services, Habitat for Humanity, the YWCA of Rhode Island, Marriage Equality of Rhode Island,
6 Planned Parenthood, and the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders of Boston; and

7 WHEREAS, Even though we are diminished by this loss and mourn Peg's passing, so
8 must we celebrate the spirit, generosity, and courage with which she lived every day of her life.
9 Margaret Agnes Laurence was truly a renaissance woman; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby expresses our deepest sympathy to the family of Margaret Agnes Laurence. She will be
12 truly missed; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Lise Iwon and the family of Margaret Agnes
15 Laurence.

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