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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8TH, 2013, AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Introduced By: Representatives E Coderre, Ajello, Williams, Naughton, and Walsh

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's,
2 during a time of booming population growth, turbulence, expansion in the industrialized world,
3 and the rise of radical ideologies; and

4 WHEREAS, International Women's Day is a day when women are recognized for their
5 achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic,
6 or political; and

7 WHEREAS, The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on
8 February 28, 1909, by the Socialist Party of America. The Party designated that day as National
9 Women's Day in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, in which women
10 protested against the working conditions they had to endure; and

11 WHEREAS, Although National Women's Day was celebrated on the last Sunday of
12 every February until 1913, International Women's Day was first observed on March 19, 1911,
13 following the second International Conference of Working Women that was held in Copenhagen,
14 Denmark; and

15 WHEREAS, The first countries to honor International Women's Day were Austria,
16 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. More than one million women and men attended
17 International Women's Day rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained,
18 hold public office, and end discrimination; and

19 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1911, a week after the initial celebration of this event and on
20 the heels of countless rallies campaigning for equal rights and tolerable and fair working

1 conditions for women, a disastrous event known as the “Triangle Shirtwaist Fire” in New York
2 City took the lives of more than 140 women, most of whom were Italian and Jewish immigrants;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This tragic event, along with succeeding rallies, drew significant attention to
5 working conditions and labor legislation in the United States, which became the focus of
6 subsequent International Women’s Day events; and

7 WHEREAS, On the eve of World War I, International Women’s Day became recognized
8 worldwide on March 8th, beginning in 1914. Since then, March 8th has remained the day on
9 which International Women’s Day is celebrated; and

10 WHEREAS, Following those early years, International Women’s Day has assumed a
11 new, global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike; and

12 WHEREAS, International Women’s Day is celebrated in a variety of countries, including
13 Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia,
14 and a host of others, and in some countries, International Women’s Day is the equivalent to
15 Mother’s Day; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations is honored to recognize March 8th, 2013, as International Women’s Day.
18 We encourage all citizens of the state to celebrate and pay tribute to the contributions made by
19 women of this and every nation; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to send
21 a duly certified copy of this resolution to the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

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