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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 375TH  
ANNIVERSARY

Introduced By: Senators Ottiano, Paiva Weed, Algiere, Ruggerio, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, In 1638, Roger Williams convinced a group of religious dissenters from the  
2 Boston Colony, including Dr. John Clarke, William Coddington, and Anne Hutchinson, that they  
3 should settle in Portsmouth instead of New Jersey, where they had first planned on going; and

4           WHEREAS, Originally named Pocasset by local Native Americans, the town was  
5 officially named Portsmouth, after Portsmouth, in Hampshire, England, on May 12, 1639, after  
6 the signing of the Portsmouth Compact, and was incorporated in 1640; and

7           WHEREAS, The founding fathers possessed the independent spirit, rugged  
8 individualism, and unreserved determination that led them to pursue unparalleled opportunities  
9 and achieve religious freedoms, that ultimately helped to form the cornerstone of Rhode Island's  
10 historic acceptance and equality for the numerous beliefs and various cultures that make our state  
11 and this country so great; and

12           WHEREAS, With sweeping ocean vistas and bucolic pastoral fields, the Town of  
13 Portsmouth consists of a total area of 59.3 square miles and encompasses some smaller islands,  
14 including Prudence Island, Patience Island, Hope Island, and Hog Island. As of the 2010 United  
15 States Census, the town has a population of over 17,000 people; and

16           WHEREAS, To honor the founding and rich history of the Town of Portsmouth, the  
17 community will be conducting a series of public events and observances. We are proud and  
18 honored to recognize Portsmouth's 375th year; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

1 hereby joins the citizens of the Town of Portsmouth in celebrating the 375th Anniversary of the  
2 founding of their town; and be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
4 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to James A. Seveney, President of the Portsmouth  
5 Town Council.

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