

2013 -- S 0435

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO WORK TOGETHER TO
AVOID THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE SEQUESTER, HALT THE IMMEDIATE CUTS
FACING RHODE ISLANDERS, AND DEVELOP A BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE
PLAN TO MANAGE THE NATION'S LONG-TERM DEBT

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Algieri, Ruggerio, Walaska, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, As mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011, and because Congress
2 failed to pass a bill reducing the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion dollars, that amount will be
3 automatically sequestered through across-the-board federal budget cuts from mandatory and
4 discretionary spending in the years 2013 through 2021, unless Congress takes alternate action;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In FY 2013 alone, sequestration has been reported to result in an estimated
7 \$85 billion in automatic spending cuts across the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a recent report released by the White House, Rhode Island
9 stands to lose an estimated \$39.34 million in federal funds in the year 2013 alone; and

10 WHEREAS, That report shows that most of these cuts will be felt within the state's
11 critical defense industry, along with significant cuts to Rhode Island's teachers and schools; aid to
12 low-income students to help finance college; funds for Health Start and Early Head Start services;
13 programs to protect the environment and promote clean air and water; funds for public health
14 programs; funds for meal assistance programs for the elderly; funds for job search and referral
15 programs for the unemployed; and funds for crime prevention and law enforcement programs,
16 among other reductions; and

17 WHEREAS, That report also shows that roughly 5,000 civilian U.S. Department of
18 Defense employees in our state will lose an anticipated gross pay cut of about \$31.5 million due

1 to salary reductions; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, an expected \$800,000 reduction in defense operation funding is
3 anticipated for Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, These defense-related reductions, alone, will significantly disrupt the lives
5 of those impacted, and will hurt the overall spending and economy of Aquidneck Island and the
6 rest of our state; and

7 WHEREAS, The continuing lack of certainty regarding federal funding leaves Rhode
8 Island with the near-impossible challenge of meeting the needs of those who will be directly and
9 immediately harmed by sequestration, while balancing our state budget without knowing how
10 much federal funding the state can confidently expect; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby recognizes the need for the United States government to reduce the national deficit and
13 manage its long-term debt, but believes this should be done in a balanced and responsible manner
14 that does not jeopardize the state's vulnerable working families and the nation's still fragile
15 economic recovery; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully urges Congress to work together to
17 avoid the harmful effects of the sequester, halt the immediate cuts facing Rhode Islanders, and
18 develop a balanced and responsible plan to manage the nation's long-term debt; and be it further

19 RESOLVED That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the clerk of the United States House of
21 Representatives, the clerk of the United States Senate, and to members of the Rhode Island
22 Congressional Delegation.

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