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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE ENHANCED LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR RHODE ISLAND VETERANS

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Cote, Bates, Pichardo, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, In its February 2012 annual report to the General Assembly, the Division of  
2 Veterans Affairs predicted an increased demand for long-term nursing and dementia care  
3 services, emphasizing that Rhode Island's veteran population of 72,835 is aging; and

4 WHEREAS, Half of all veterans in this state are over 65 years of age; and

5 WHEREAS, The 2012 annual report concludes that the increase in older veterans will  
6 increase the need for veterans services; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2012, over 75 percent of Rhode Island voters approved a state ballot to  
8 provide \$94,000,000 for the construction of a new Veterans' Home and renovations to existing  
9 facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Not all senior veterans meet the eligibility for the State Veteran's Home or  
11 instead desire to remain in their home environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's increase in older veterans will substantially increase the  
13 need for long-term care services, particularly for nursing home and dementia placement; and

14 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Senate has resolved and requested that the Congress of  
15 the United States pass legislation to establish funding for individual states, including Rhode  
16 Island, to implement a home and community based veterans program; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
18 respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Human Services:

19 1. Further explore joint State and United States Veterans Administration funding

1 opportunities to implement recommendations from the President's Joining Forces Initiative, to  
2 strengthen behavioral healthcare systems and supportive in-home long-term care services for our  
3 Veterans and their families.

4           2. Provide additional training programs for frontline healthcare and case managers on  
5 veterans' long-term and behavioral care benefits.

6           3. Develop clear and concise information about veteran's benefits for long-term care  
7 services and options; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Veterans' Home Bristol,  
10 Rhode Island.

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