

2013 -- S 0632

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT GOVERNOR CHAFEE, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COALITION OF NORTHEASTERN GOVERNORS, EXPLORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Walaska, Cote, Sosnowski, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Taiwan, the United States, and, in particular, the state of Rhode Island share
2 a historical and close relationship; and

3 WHEREAS, Together they share the common values of freedom, democracy, human
4 rights, and rule of law; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan's relationship with the United States is marked by strong bilateral
6 trade and educational and cultural exchanges, including vibrant tourism; and

7 WHEREAS, Total U.S. trade with Taiwan in 2011 was \$67.2 billion, making Taiwan the
8 10th largest U.S. trading partner; and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan was the United States' 13th largest goods export market in 2011,
10 purchasing in excess of \$26 billion of goods and services; and

11 WHEREAS, The Taiwan market is a key priority for state export promotion programs,
12 with 14 states maintaining trade offices in Taipei; and

13 WHEREAS, The U.S. International Trade Commission and the Institute for International
14 Economics estimate that a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade agreement would increase U.S. exports to
15 Taiwan by the amount of \$3 billion to \$6 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's 2011 exports to Taiwan stand at \$55 million or 2.4 percent
17 of total state export, having grown 223 percent since 2008, with strong potential for further
18 growth; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Commerce Department reported that in 2011, 290,000 travelers
2 from Taiwan spent over \$1.1 billion in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan's recent participation in the United States Visa Waiver Program,
4 which enables Taiwan's citizens to travel to the United States for tourism or business stays of 90
5 days or less, without a visa, increases tourism and business; and

6 WHEREAS, The people of Taiwan and Rhode Island look forward to an even stronger
7 friendship and business relationship over the next several decades; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 respectfully requests that Governor Lincoln Chafee, as 2013 Chairman of the Coalition of
10 Northeastern Governors ("CONEG"), explore the establishment of a New England Regional
11 Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, Taiwan, focused upon facilitation of two-way trade,
12 tourism, and investment between Taiwan and the New England States; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Lincoln Chafee, Governor of
15 Rhode Island, The Honorable Anne Hung, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
16 Office in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Coalition of Northeastern Governors.

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