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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING RESTORATION OF SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
GRANTS FUNDING**

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Picard, Felag, Walaska, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, The number of Rhode Islanders sixty-five years of age and older is expected
2 to grow from 152,000 in 2010, to a projected 198,000 in 2020, and to 246,500 by the year 2030;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, According to the 2010 United States Census, Rhode Island has the highest
5 percent of persons age eighty-five years and older, and as persons age they have greater
6 dependency needs and an increased need for long-term care services and support; and

7 WHEREAS, Community-based support services and programs such as senior centers,
8 Meals on Wheels, and respite services play important roles in helping older persons to live
9 independently, in supporting caregivers, and in preventing or postponing institutionalization,
10 thereby enabling seniors to “age in the community” and reduce Medicaid costs for long-term care
11 facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, The State has set goals to increase the percent of funds spent on home and
13 community-based services to fifty percent for total long-term care spending and to divert persons
14 from institutions and to transition persons out of institutions when appropriate; and

15 WHEREAS, Since Fiscal Year 2007-2008, state appropriations for senior community
16 services grants that fund services for the elderly, including senior centers, respite care and Meals
17 on Wheels, have been reduced by a total of \$1,866,000, and there are waiting lists for Meals on
18 Wheels and respite care, as well as reduced service levels at many senior centers; now, therefore
19 be it

1 RESOLVED, That there is appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
2 appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014, the sum of \$2,863,000 for senior community service
3 grants administered through the Division of Elderly Affairs of the Department of Human Services
4 to provide funds for Meals on Wheels, respite services, senior centers, and other senior
5 community support programs, and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw
6 his or her orders upon the General Treasurer for payment of said sum, or upon receipt by him or
7 her of properly authenticated vouchers.

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