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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH THE RHODE ISLAND
"STATE OF THE ARTS" PLANNING TASK FORCE**

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Miller, Pichardo, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: May 02, 2013

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s nonprofit arts organizations have earned both national and
2 international distinction and account for an impressive amount of economic activity, with
3 spending in 2009 of the 1,163 arts and cultural organizations amounting to over \$324 million and
4 jobs for nearly 5,200 people; and

5 WHEREAS, The arts community greatly enhances Rhode Island’s tourism industry and
6 includes critical auxiliary industries such as design and visual arts that are crucial to the success
7 of the state’s knowledge economy; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a 2011 study commissioned by the New England Foundation
9 for the Arts (NEFA), in aggregate, every \$1.00 spent by a Rhode Island nonprofit arts and
10 cultural organization became \$2.10 in sales for business in Rhode Island, and every job provided
11 by a Rhode Island nonprofit arts and cultural organization became 1.5 jobs for workers across the
12 state; and

13 WHEREAS, There is a growing consensus within education and economic development
14 policy to expand our current national educational emphasis from “STEM” learning (shorthand for
15 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to “STEAM,” adding an “A” for Arts to
16 further encourage creativity and innovation in the next generation; and

17 WHEREAS, It is essential that Rhode Island will examine all available opportunities to
18 position, brand, market, and expand Rhode Island’s creative sector to ensure the state remains
19 competitive both nationally and internationally; and

1 WHEREAS, On February 11th, the Governor, the Senate, and the House of
2 Representatives convened the 2013 Arts Charrette, with over 100 attendees representing
3 government, nonprofits, businesses, academia, and private citizens that developed a shared vision
4 to position Rhode Island as the nation’s first distinctive “State of the Arts”; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes and supports the recommendations from
6 the Charrette to foster a vibrant arts economy through marketing and branding statewide, to
7 examine opportunities to capitalize and expand the arts tax incentives, and to further imbed arts
8 with academia. These recommendations will require a concerted effort of public-private
9 partnerships; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
11 Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Governor to establish the Rhode Island “State of the
12 Arts” Strategic Planning Task Force comprised of appropriate individuals, including
13 representatives of the Rhode Island Council on the Arts and the RI Economic Development
14 Corporation; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Rhode Island State of the Arts Task Force shall develop a
16 comprehensive strategic plan, including specific action steps and identified responsible parties for
17 said action steps, for the state of Rhode Island to attract, retain, support, expand, and market the
18 arts and associated creative industries in Rhode Island. Such strategic plan shall include, but not
19 be limited to, recommendations regarding:

- 20 (1) Increasing awareness and visibility of the arts;
- 21 (2) Facilitating increased cooperation and interaction among private businesses and
22 members of the arts community;
- 23 (3) Ensuring the future growth of arts in Rhode Island, including partnerships to increase
24 education, participation, and exposure to the arts among children and young adults; and
- 25 (4) Identifying public-private funding options to encourage, expand, and sustain
26 investments in the arts; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
28 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later
29 than March 13, 2014 and said Task Force shall expire on May 15, 2014; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
31 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor.

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