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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Gallo, Lombardi, Metts, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 12, 2014

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The month of February, 2014, has been designated Career and Technical
2 Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

3 WHEREAS, Profound economic and technological changes in our state are transforming
4 the structure and nature of work, placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational
5 system; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Senate's "Rhode to Work" report found there is a
7 projected 'middle skills' gap in Rhode Island along with a potential labor shortage in middle skill
8 fields; and

9 WHEREAS, That same report recognized the importance of career and technical
10 education in closing this skills gap and preparing Rhode Island's workforce of the future; and

11 WHEREAS, Career and technical education is the backbone of a strong, well-educated
12 state workforce, helping foster productivity in business and industry, and increasing Rhode
13 Island's economic competitiveness; and

14 WHEREAS, Career and technical education introduces students to the practical and
15 technical demands of the workplace, and is combined with traditional classroom instruction,
16 which improves the quality of their education; and

17 WHEREAS, Career and technical education offers students lifelong opportunities to learn
18 new skills, increase their employability and earnings capacity, and provides them with career
19 choices and personal and professional satisfaction; and

1 WHEREAS, The cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and labor
2 representatives, and state policymakers will help stimulate the growth and innovation of Rhode
3 Island's career and technical education system, strengthening the state's economy, and preparing
4 future workers for rewarding careers in some of the highest projected growth occupations in
5 Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby declares the month of February to be "Career and Technical Education Month" in our
8 state; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby urges all citizens, students, and employers to
10 become familiar with the services and benefits offered by career and technical education
11 programs in this state and to support these programs in their mission of preparing Rhode Island's
12 future workforce; 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 Commissioner of the Department of
15 Elementary and Secondary Education and the Chair of the Board of Education.

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