

**2015 -- H 5302**

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LC000403  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CELEBRATING THE VOLVO OCEAN RACE AND THE DECISION TO COME TO  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, IN 2015 AS A STOPOVER ON ITS 2014-2015 OCEAN RACE**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Ruggiero, Abney, Reilly, and Morin

Date Introduced: February 04, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Volvo Ocean Race is a prestigious around-the-world race held every  
2 three years. It covers a distance of close to 40,000 nautical miles and the routes used in the race  
3 are changed for every competition. The City of Newport and the State of Rhode Island are  
4 extremely proud to have been selected as the only North American port for this prestigious global  
5 event; and

6           WHEREAS, The City of Newport, known and admired worldwide for its beauty and  
7 status as one of the elite boat racing ports on the globe, was a logical choice to serve as a port of  
8 call for this premier race. The "City by the Sea" is home to breathtaking views, a knowledgeable  
9 and passionate boat racing populace, and a bustling waterfront with world class restaurants and  
10 wonderful art galleries and boutiques; and

11           WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island and the Department of Environmental  
12 Management have invested millions of dollars in facility upgrades to prepare Fort Adams State  
13 Park as a world class sailing venue, and national and international visitors will invest millions of  
14 dollars in restaurants, stores, attractions, and transportation; and

15           WHEREAS, The Race Village for the Volvo Ocean Race will open in Newport on May  
16 5, 2015, with the competing boats expected to arrive on or before May 9, 2015. The Race Village  
17 will have a sail loft and boatyard, interactive exhibits, a variety of marine educational programs,  
18 numerous other family activities and entertainment programming, and delectable international  
19 cuisine. There will also be many on-the-water activities and competitions including a youth

1 challenge, a "Try Sailing" event, a pro-am race, and a Combat Wounded Veterans Challenge; and  
2 WHEREAS, Hosting the Volvo Ocean Race will be very beneficial to the economic well-  
3 being of both the State of Rhode Island and the City of Newport. Nearly 100,000 people are  
4 expected to visit the Volvo Village throughout the twelve days that the event village will be at  
5 Fort Adams State Park; and

6 WHEREAS, The race will not only generate thousands of hotel rooms throughout Rhode  
7 Island, but will also provide an outstanding opportunity to showcase the many marine trade  
8 businesses throughout the state, and the international media coverage of this event will showcase  
9 the beauty of Rhode Island globally; and

10 WHEREAS, When compared to the America's World Cup Series, the Volvo Ocean Race  
11 North American Stopover in Newport could generate over \$40 million in direct economic impact  
12 to the state and will link Rhode Island to other major maritime centers around the world including  
13 Gothenburg Sweden, and resort areas in France, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, the United Arab  
14 Emirates, China, New Zealand, and Brazil; and

15 WHEREAS, The central themes of the Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Newport is ocean  
16 awareness and conservation, and environmental sustainability. There will be numerous  
17 educational programs at the Race Village emphasizing the principles of "Reduce, Reuse and  
18 Recycle." All Rhode Islanders, in our daily lives, can do small and large things to sustain our  
19 planet and our living space through recycling and not using products that harm the environment.  
20 The Volvo Ocean Race Education Initiative, with the support of the Newport community, plans to  
21 showcase the environmental lessons learned at sea with the intent of positively impacting the  
22 daily lives of everyday citizens and also to encourage people to discover boating through Sail  
23 Newport; and

24 WHEREAS, A further goal of the Volvo Ocean Race and its Newport hosts is to link  
25 sailors to students. To help accomplish this goal, an educational program has been launched by  
26 Sail Newport that will enable students from kindergarten through 12th grade to follow this  
27 exciting race through class projects, various online learning opportunities, and direct contact with  
28 the sailors onboard Team Alvimedica. This program is part of a national educational program that  
29 Newport school teacher Donna Kelly and R. Mark Davis, President of Sailors for the Sea, will co-  
30 chair at the Newport Stopover for the Volvo Ocean Race; and

31 WHEREAS, Many Rhode Islanders are actively participating in this global event both  
32 onboard competing boats, as part of the on-shore support teams, as part of local planning  
33 committees, and as visitors to the events, and all Rhode Islanders and our state will greatly benefit  
34 from being selected to host this amazing event; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
2 Providence Plantations hereby enthusiastically welcomes the Volvo Ocean Race to the City of  
3 Newport, Rhode Island, and wishes good luck to all of the competitors and a fun-filled learning  
4 experience for all of the attendees and spectators; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Allan Megarry, Chief Operating Officer of  
7 Sail Newport.

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