JOINT RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ALL RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT EACH DISTRICT’S MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Casey, Morin, Amore, and Serpa

Date Introduced: March 06, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

WHEREAS, In 1999, in his State of the Union Address, former President Clinton stated "No child should graduate from high school with a diploma he or she can't read”; and

WHEREAS, Allowing students to pass from grade to grade, and particularly to graduate high school, without mastering the basic material and skills necessary to progress to a career or higher education is flawed and misguided; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the people of this state to end so-called "social promotion," and to raise the bar on graduation requirements to meet rigorous academic standards and increase work skills so that our young people will be prepared to compete in an ever-evolving global workforce; and

WHEREAS, A high school diploma must have consistency and value in the real world; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Education to require all Rhode Island school districts to submit each district's minimum high school graduation requirements on or before January 5, 2016, and to submit a consolidated report to the General Assembly on or before March 1, 2016; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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