

2015 -- H 6048

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LC002407
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
OCEANOGRAPHY CENTER FOR OCEAN EXPLORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Regunberg, Ackerman, Canario, and Craven

Date Introduced: April 08, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island is
2 a well-respected international and national center of excellence; and

3 WHEREAS, The Center for Ocean Exploration STEM (Science, Technology,
4 Engineering, Mathematics) Project is designed to help teachers develop their 21st century
5 teaching skills while learning to use STEM curricula with their students. Currently, the STEM
6 Project serves over 1,000 students and teachers across the state with its after-school initiative,
7 known as the Rhode Island Community STEM Program, and has established a panoply of
8 educational goals and strategies to engage students in the areas of science and technology
9 literacy, as well as help teachers to motivate students, integrate technology into lesson plans, and
10 more effectively manage their classrooms; and

11 WHEREAS, Working in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, the Ocean
12 Exploration Trust, and other STEM related entities within the State of Rhode Island including,
13 schools and after-school programs like the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Rhode Island, the
14 STEM Project seeks to implement the internationally recognized best STEM program in Rhode
15 Island; and

16 WHEREAS, In order to significantly expand the implementation of STEM, and to
17 establish the Scholarship Program, the Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean
18 Exploration is requesting five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for a public/private
19 partnership, of which two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) will be used for such things as:

- 1 • Certification of Lead Teachers, including stipends for involvement;
- 2 • Grants to schools and organizations for program implementation;
- 3 • Training for Educators and Youth Workers;
- 4 • Curriculum for schools and after-school programs;
- 5 • Involvement of students, teachers, and educators in the Ocean Exploration
- 6 Center's sea-going programs;
- 7 • "Live" interactive programming for schools and after-school programs in the
- 8 State; and

9 The remaining three hundred thousand (\$300,000) will be used for the Graduate School
10 of Oceanography Center for Ocean Exploration Scholarship Program for graduate students; and

11 WHEREAS, State investment will be matched by one million five hundred thousand
12 dollars (\$1,500,000) in private support; and

13 WHEREAS, The Center for Ocean Exploration's goal is to reach educators and students
14 in the program, for a net investment by the state of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per child; and

15 WHEREAS, The STEM Project will focus on low- and moderate-income level students,
16 as determined by Title 1 eligibility, and will specifically address the achievement gap among low-
17 and moderate-income students in Title 1 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, The Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean Exploration
19 STEM Project and Scholarship Program will make a real difference for participating youth and
20 has already had a significant impact on closing the achievement gap for many students; now,
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
23 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2015-2016 and subsequent years, the sum of five
24 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean
25 Exploration to implement activities outlined within this resolution; and the state controller is
26 hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of
27 said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt by him of
28 properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
OCEANOGRAPHY CENTER FOR OCEAN EXPLORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 dollars for the
- 2 Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean Exploration.

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