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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

**COMMEMORATING THE 171ST ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
INDEPENDENCE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Metts, Jabour, Lombardi, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On February 27, the people of the Dominican Republic and all free people,
2 will celebrate 171 years of Dominican Independence; and

3 WHEREAS, The seat of the original capital of the Spanish New World, the Dominican
4 Republic proclaims a host of American firsts: the first permanent European settlement, the first
5 university, the first church, the first cathedral, the first mass, and the first royal court; and

6 WHEREAS, The French established the colony of Haiti on the western part of the island,
7 and in 1804 the slaves there revolted, achieving freedom. In 1822, the Haitians gained control
8 over the entire island for the next 22 years until 1844, when the Dominican Republic became
9 liberated from Haitian domination. On February 27, 1844, the Declaration of Independence was
10 written by Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosaro Sanchez, and Ramon Matias Mella; and

11 WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic's record for free and fair elections sets an example
12 for emerging democracies the world over; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, the Dominican Republic has a close relationship with the United
14 States and has been supportive of many U.S. initiatives, including the fight against trafficking in
15 illegal substances. The Dominican Republic has accredited diplomatic missions in most Western
16 Hemisphere countries and in principal European capitals, and belongs to many world
17 organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Labor
18 Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation
19 Organization, and the Inter-American Development Bank; and

1 WHEREAS, One and a half million Dominicans now reside in the United States and are
2 an important element in the special relationship between the two countries. Rhode Island's
3 Dominicans number among the state's smaller ethnic groups but the community imparts a rich
4 history and vitality through their presence in the Ocean State. The strong business ethic within
5 Rhode Island's Dominican community and local businesses owned by Dominican immigrants is
6 evidenced by their myriad contributions, greatly adding to the economic vitality of our state; and

7 WHEREAS, Dominican-American community members play another essential role
8 through their representation in the United States Armed Services. Many Dominican-Americans
9 have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives defending America's liberty, security, and
10 freedoms; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby commemorates the 171st Anniversary of Dominican Republic Independence on February
13 27, 2015, and proudly recognizes the significant contributions that Dominicans have made to the
14 State of Rhode Island and the United States; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to His Excellency President Danilo Medina, and
17 the Embassy of the United States Dominican Republic.

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