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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING WJFD-FM RADIO STATION ON THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION
OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Introduced By: Senators DaPonte, Paiva Weed, Nesselbush, Pearson, and Archambault

Date Introduced: June 04, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On June 23rd, 1975, WJFD-FM, owned by Attorney Edmund Dinis, began
2 broadcasting in a Portuguese language format with the hope of better serving the large and
3 vibrant Portuguese communities sprinkled throughout Eastern New England, from Salem, New
4 Hampshire, to Mystic, Connecticut, and from Boston to Worcester, with a particular emphasis on
5 covering the southeastern Massachusetts and the greater Providence, area Portuguese
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1982, in order to take better advantage of its 50,000 watts of power,
8 WJFD began broadcasting from a 580-foot tower in the New Bedford area. As a result of having
9 more power, greater coverage, and better programming, WJFD became the biggest Portuguese
10 FM radio station outside of Portugal and the most-listened-to Portuguese radio station in the area;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, WJFD provides programming that focuses on important community events
13 and issues, covers a variety of musical tastes, emphasizes popular sporting events and covers live
14 national and international news from Portugal. It provides information and entertainment to its
15 listeners, whether at home, at work, or in drive-time on the roadways, and it captures
16 approximately 400,000 listeners who report Portuguese, Brazilian and Cape Verdean as their first
17 ancestry. Most recently, under the ownership of Henry and Paulina Arruda, WJFD joined the
18 iHeartRadio family of streaming radio stations, becoming the first and only Portuguese terrestrial
19 radio station to join iHeartRadio, with more than 50 million listeners; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
2 hereby congratulates WJFD-FM Radio Station on the momentous occasion of its 40th
3 Anniversary; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Paulina Arruda.

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