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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE TASK FORCE ON
SEXUAL ASSAULT TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE REPORTING AND DECREASE THE
INSTANCES OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN OUR STATE

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Crowley, Sosnowski, Lynch, and Gallo

Date Introduced: June 18, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, According to the 2014 "Uniform Crime Report – Crime in Rhode Island,"
2 the reports of sexual assault in our state saw only a minimal reduction over the course of 2013
3 through 2014, and it continues to be one of the most destructive crimes in our society; and

4 WHEREAS, While awareness of the issue of sexual assault has grown and efforts to
5 assist victims are commendable, the rate of assaults in this state and across the nation remains
6 devastatingly high, with someone being sexually assaulted every two minutes in the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, it is estimated that one in eight women has been sexually
9 assaulted during her lifetime, and one in five women experiences sexual assault while in college.
10 More than 59 percent of all sexual assaults go unreported, and on college campuses, more than 90
11 percent of sexual assault victims do not report the assault; and

12 WHEREAS, The economic cost for each sexual assault in this country is estimated at
13 \$110,000, with the total economic cost of rape estimated to be \$127 billion a year in the United
14 States according to the "Economic Costs of Sexual Assault"; and

15 WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a significant and detrimental problem that indelibly
16 changes lives, leading to harmful physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes that can last a
17 lifetime for its victims; and

18 WHEREAS, To find better solutions and pathways to reduce and eventually eradicate

1 sexual assault, abuse, and violence in Rhode Island, a statewide task force has been established,
2 consisting of members from state and local law enforcement and prosecution agencies, advocacy
3 groups such as Day One, and professionals from social services, medical and higher education
4 fields; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Statewide Task Force To Address Adult Sexual
7 Assault report its findings and recommendations regarding how this state can increase the
8 reporting and decrease the incidence of sexual assaults as well as fully support victims of this
9 crime, and said Report to be presented at a Hearing of the Rhode Island Senate (or a committee
10 thereof) on or before January 26, 2016; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Governor Gina Raimondo, and Peg
13 Langhammer, Executive Director of Day One.

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