

2016 -- H 8159

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LC005903
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$537,766 TO RHODE ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES,
INC.**

Introduced By: Representative Christopher R. Blazewski

Date Introduced: May 05, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., was incorporated by an act of the
2 General Assembly on February 28, 1969, to provide free legal assistance to indigent Rhode
3 Islanders; and

4 WHEREAS, Access to the civil justice system is of paramount importance without regard
5 to one's economic status; and

6 WHEREAS, There is an unmet need of low income Rhode Islanders for legal aid in
7 Family Court matters; and

8 WHEREAS, The unmet need for legal aid in the Rhode Island Family Court is an
9 important challenge to the Court's ability to provide prompt and equal access to all Rhode
10 Islanders; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Legal Services has a long and successful history of
12 representing low income individuals in divorce and custody matters but lacks the funding to
13 provide such services; and

14 WHEREAS, Funding Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., will allow Rhode Island Legal
15 Services to hire additional staff to represent litigants in family law matters thereby helping to
16 alleviate the problem of unmet need and increase the efficiency in the Rhode Island Family
17 Court; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
19 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2016-2017, the sum of five hundred thirty-seven

1 thousand seven hundred sixty-six dollars (\$537,766) to Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., to
2 represent indigent Rhode Islanders in matters involving domestic relations; and the state
3 controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the
4 payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of
5 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 \$537,766 TO RHODE ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES,
INC.

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$537,766 to Rhode Island
- 2 Legal Services, Inc.

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