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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING WILLIAM COTTON ON BEING THE FIRST MEDICAL MARIJUANA
PATIENT IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, Ruggerio, and Miller

Date Introduced: May 10, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, In 1999, Bill Cotton was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, an autoimmune
2 disorder which affects the central nervous system and causes a wide range of symptoms, many of
3 which can be chronic and debilitating; and

4 WHEREAS, Initially treated with conventional pharmaceuticals and synthetic cannabis,
5 Mr. Cotton, as is the case with many MS patients, found no relief from his MS related pain; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2006, Bill Cotton became the first patient in Rhode Island to receive his
7 medical marijuana card, dramatically improving his quality of life, and enabling him to enjoy and
8 contribute to his family as a husband and father of two; and

9 WHEREAS, As a result of his journey, Mr. Cotton became a Marijuana Patient Advocate
10 and Educator, as well as a volunteer consultant, and a liaison in the Medical Marijuana Program.
11 His efforts have helped many Rhode Islanders to find comfort and relief, and have aided them in
12 returning to productive lives; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Cotton founded and is the Director of the RI Patient
14 Association, and serves on myriad boards and organizations including the Board of Directors for
15 Child, Inc., as a member of the State-Wide Family Engagement Advisory Council, Treasurer of
16 RIPAC, and on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Head Start Association; now,
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
19 hereby recognizes and honors William Cotton on being the very first medical marijuana patient in

1 the state. We moreover wish him health and happiness and thank him for his altruistic efforts on
2 behalf of the citizens of our state; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. William Cotton.

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