

2018 -- S 2742

LC005271

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF STEPHEN WILLIAM HAWKING
AND HONORING HIS LEGACY OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE

Introduced By: Senators Calkin, DiPalma, Ruggerio, Goodwin, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: March 22, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Stephen William Hawking, a world renowned physicist long admired for his
2 brilliance, passed away on March 14, 2018; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hawking was born on January 8, 1942, in Oxford, United Kingdom, to
4 Frank and Isobel Hawking, University College, Oxford, graduates and medical research
5 professionals. Stephen Hawking exhibited early brilliance in mathematics, earning the nickname
6 "Einstein," and was awarded a scholarship to Oxford at the age of 17, where he studied physics
7 and chemistry and attained a first-class Honours degree in science; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Hawking later attended Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge, where
9 he obtained a PhD degree in applied mathematics and theoretical physics, specializing in general
10 relativity and cosmology. He wrote ground-breaking essays on the Big Bang theory and his essay
11 "Singularities and the Geometry of Space-Time" shared top honors to win that year's prestigious
12 Adams Prize. In 1970, with colleague Roger Penrose, Mr. Hawking was able to show that
13 Einstein's general theory of relativity implied space and time would have a beginning in the Big
14 Bang and end in black holes; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Hawking's post-graduate work continued to be widely admired and
16 praised by his peers as he won numerous awards for his work including the Eddington Medal, the
17 Pius XI Medal, the 1976 Dannie Heineman Prize, the Maxwell Prize and the Hughes Medal. In
18 1977, he was appointed a professor in gravitational physics and the following year, he received
19 the Albert Einstein Medal and an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford. In 1979, he

1 was elected Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the past thirty years, Stephen Hawking has become one of the most
3 famous, admired and respected persons in the world. He has earned worldwide acclaim for
4 discovering the four laws of black hole mechanics, for his theory that black holes emit Hawking
5 radiation, and for his numerous contributions to the theory of cosmic inflation. His book, *A Brief*
6 *History of Time*, written in 1988 for non-scientists, became a worldwide sensation, spent more
7 than five years on the London Sunday Times bestseller list, was translated into 35 languages, and
8 sold more than ten million copies. Mr. Hawking's views on issues related to science, philosophy,
9 politics and religion were reported on across the globe, and the grace with which he fought ALS
10 was admired universally; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby expresses its condolences on the passing of Stephen William Hawking and expresses its
13 admiration for his ground-breaking work in the fields of physics and cosmology; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Robert Hawking, Lucy Hawking, Timothy
16 Hawking, the University of Oxford, and the University of Cambridge.

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