

2019 -- H 5962

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LC002359
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 30, 2019, AS "THE STATE DAY OF THE COOPERATIVE" IN
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Maldonado, Tobon, Shekarchi, Slater, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: April 04, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Worker-owned cooperatives are business enterprises that are owned and
2 governed by their employees and have two common characteristics, member-owners invest in and
3 own the business together and share the enterprise's profits, and decision-making is democratic,
4 with each member having one vote; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2012, the United Nations declared "The Year of Cooperatives" and
6 encouraged governments "to establish policies, laws, and regulations conducive to cooperative
7 formation and growth"; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island provided for the creation of Worker-Owned Cooperatives as a
9 recognized form of business incorporation with unique characteristics, through legislation that
10 allows workers and investors to form workers' cooperatives and specifically aimed at
11 empowering workers; and

12 WHEREAS, Worker-Owned Cooperatives have a long and proud history of building
13 wealth, security, equality, resiliency, solidarity, and hope for individuals and families, especially
14 in those communities and among those populations historically disadvantaged; and

15 WHEREAS, Because Worker-Owned Cooperatives are owned by their workers, they
16 concentrate as much on creating lasting and meaningful employment and good, healthy working
17 conditions as they do on generating profits for the owners/workers; and

18 WHEREAS, Worker-Owned Cooperatives have as their express purpose and charter the
19 increase of equity, participation in democratic governance, control of working conditions,

1 security, and control of economic destiny for their members; and

2 WHEREAS, The diverse communities of Rhode Island offer myriad opportunities for
3 entrepreneurship, innovation, development, and investment by Worker-Owned Cooperatives,
4 whose members hail directly from those communities and whose business activities directly serve
5 those communities and whose actions are directly accountable to those communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Conversion of businesses to Worker-Owned Cooperatives to avoid closure
7 or sale to out-of-state entities, represents a sound and creative response by this State to the
8 inevitable retirement of Rhode Island small business owners; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims April 30, 2019, as "The State Day of the Cooperative"
11 in order to celebrate and promote the proliferation and growth of Worker-Owned Cooperatives in
12 our State - businesses which have demonstrated the ability to bring "the economic benefits of a
13 fulfilling life with a good job" along with dignity and self-determination, to individuals and
14 communities around the State; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Fuerza Laboral/Power of Workers.

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