

2019 -- H 6138

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 1ST THROUGH 7TH, 2019, AS "RESILIENCY WEEK" IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Ruggiero, Donovan, Caldwell, and Handy

Date Introduced: May 22, 2019

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce the loss of life and property by
2 lessening the impact of disasters and is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive,
3 long-term mitigation plan; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency, is designed to assist states and local communities in
6 implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program; and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal government recently enacted the Disaster Recovery Reform
8 Act, which makes available new dollars for states and communities to undertake pre-disaster
9 mitigation measures and creates new incentives for states to build resiliently; and

10 WHEREAS, Since 1908, natural disasters have cost the country more than \$1 trillion
11 dollars; and

12 WHEREAS, Disasters affect the local and state economies in lost payrolls, lost sales and
13 income tax, and increased disaster recovery times; and

14 WHEREAS, According to a FEMA commissioned study conducted by the National
15 Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation with \$6 in
16 future benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of small businesses that are impacted by a natural
18 disaster never reopen their doors; and

19 WHEREAS, Mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster

1 damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage; and

2 WHEREAS, Effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for relief services on
3 volunteer organizations such as disaster rescue and recovery teams, along with food banks and
4 homeless shelters who serve our communities by changing their operations to provide additional
5 services to those affected by disasters; and

6 WHEREAS, September is National Preparedness Month and Rhode Island Preparedness
7 Month in recognition of the need for all Americans to prepare and plan for recovery after a
8 disaster; and

9 WHEREAS, There are also vitally important environmental disasters that, while more
10 gradual in their approach, are none the less an eminent threat to our ecosystem and the health of
11 our environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Climate resilience has been defined as "the capacity of individuals,
13 institutions, businesses, and natural systems within Rhode Island to survive, adapt, and grow no
14 matter what chronic stresses and weather events they experience"; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is already experiencing climate change and the impacts are
16 placing communities, coastlines, forests, and aging, vulnerable infrastructure at risk; and

17 WHEREAS, Climate change is considered one the most serious threats to the future
18 health, well-being, and economic security of the people of Rhode Island; and

19 WHEREAS, It is essential to the safety and well-being of all Rhode Islanders that
20 agencies of this State are prepared to keep the citizens, our coastline, and our state's natural
21 resources safe from both sudden natural disasters and the devastating progression and effects of
22 climate change; now therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
24 Providence Plantations hereby honors the brave men and women who, as first responders,
25 selflessly provide aid in a disaster to safeguard Rhode Island's citizens; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That this House hereby recognizes September 1st through September 7th,
27 2019, as "Resiliency Week", and urges all the citizens of the state to learn about and actively
28 support efforts to enhance our state and the world's environmental and disaster preparedness
29 through the establishment of a pre-disaster mitigation strategy; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That this House hereby urges that steps necessary to implement Rhode
31 Island's Action Plan to Stand Up to Climate Change are promptly instituted; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the

- 1 State of Rhode Island, Janet Coit, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
- 2 Management, and Cate Paolino, Regional Vice President -- Northeast, National Association of
- 3 Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC).

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