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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTHRONEMENT OF HIS
EMINENCE METROPOLITAN METHODIOS ON APRIL 8, 1984**

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Gallo, Cano, Euer, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: April 23, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, On April 8th of 1984, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios was enthroned
2 by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos as the Bishop of the historic Diocese of Boston, following
3 his election to that post by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Phanar,
4 Constantinople, Turkey; and

5 WHEREAS, The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston includes all of Massachusetts,
6 Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont and the Connecticut Towns of Danielson,
7 Enfield, New London and Norwich, and consists of 63 parishes which minister to the needs of
8 approximately 200,000 Greek Orthodox faithful; and

9 WHEREAS, Metropolitan Methodios was born in New York City, the third child of the
10 late Stavroula and Vasilios Tournas. He graduated from the Greek Orthodox Cathedral Parochial
11 School and the McBurney School, and received a Bachelors' degree from Hellenic College and a
12 Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He later
13 earned a Master of Sacred Theology from Boston University and was awarded Theological
14 Accreditation from the University of Thessaloniki, Greece. He was also awarded an Honorary
15 Doctor of Divinity Degree from Boston University, an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters from
16 the American International College, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from his Alma
17 Mater, Hellenic College-Holy Cross; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1985, beginning his ministries in Boston, Metropolitan Methodios
19 oversaw the construction of a magnificent Center which now serves as a focal point of the

1 Metropolis in New England, and in 1986, he established the Philoxenia House which offers
2 hospitality to patients and their families who have come to Boston from all over the world to
3 receive medical treatment; and

4 WHEREAS, From July of 1989 through 1995, Bishop Methodios also assumed the
5 Presidency of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in
6 Brookline, Massachusetts, and in 1997, he was elevated to the office of Metropolitan; and

7 WHEREAS, A renowned theologian, spiritual father, and a man of deep and abiding
8 faith, Metropolitan Methodios has been inspired and strives to daily grow and progress the
9 Diocese for the glory of Almighty God, to foster close civic and ecumenical ties in the City of
10 Boston and throughout the Diocese, and manifest the presence and contribution of Orthodoxy in
11 the most positive and meaningful manner; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby celebrates the 35th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan
14 Methodios on April 8, 1984. We moreover wish him many more years of good health and
15 spiritual fulfillment; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, The
18 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston.

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