

2020 -- S 2719

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN,
SUPPORTING THE ENHANCEMENT OF BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS AND
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Picard, Nesselbush, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: February 27, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a most
2 important bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, supported by our
3 common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a free market economy. Our two
4 countries now enjoy the strongest relations they have ever had; and

5 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen, re-elected on January 11, 2020, for a second- term
6 in a direct, open, and democratic election, has worked tirelessly to uphold constitutional
7 principles and a civil society in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan’s 23.5 million people,
8 promote international standing, and expressed commitment to peace and understanding in the
9 Indo-Pacific region; and

10 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo congratulated President
11 Tsai Ing-wen on winning re-election and further stated that Taiwan and the United states are
12 “members of the same community of democracies” and that Taiwan is a “model for the Indo-
13 Pacific region and a force for good in the world” in a press statement on January 11, 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and State
15 clarified United States policy regarding Taiwan in a formal letter sent to the Governors of all fifty
16 states dated September 30, 2019, which stated that “expanding relations with Taiwan in areas
17 such as trade, education, investment, and tourism is fully compatible with and supports United
18 States policy and can be beneficial to your state and municipality”; and

19 WHEREAS, The Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and State further stated that

1 “Our Departments encourage cooperation with Taiwan” and also noted that “Taiwan is a vital
2 United States partner and democratic success story”; and

3 WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan’s desire to reach a Bilateral Trade
4 Agreement (BTA) with the United States, and the United States Senate passed the “Taiwan Allies
5 International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI) of 2019” (S.1678) on October
6 28, 2019, affirming that the “United States should engage in bilateral trade negotiations with
7 Taiwan,” and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rhode Island and Taiwan
8 regarding economic and trade exchange and cooperation that will promote bilateral trade; and

9 WHEREAS, The SARS pandemic in 2003 and now, since multiple cases of the novel
10 coronavirus-nCoV have been diagnosed in the United States since January, 2020, make it
11 imperative that Taiwan be included in the crucial network of the World Health Organization
12 (WHO), and the World Health Assembly (WHA) in the global effort to contain, prevent, and
13 combat the spread of such viruses; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan’s 2nd largest trade partner, and Taiwan
15 is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services
16 between the United States and Taiwan amounting to approximately \$85.5 billion in 2019, and
17 said trade has created or supported approximately 373,288 United States jobs according to the
18 United States Department of Commerce; and

19 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan in which
20 Rhode Island exported \$31.1 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing,
21 chemicals, computer and electronic products, making Taiwan Rhode Island’s 17th largest export
22 market in the world and the 6th largest export market in Asia (2018). Taiwan and the United
23 States seek to increase trade and investment through bilateral trade agreements, resulting in even
24 greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan, educational and culture exchange, scientific and
25 technological interests, and tourism; and

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 18th largest global market and its inclusion in international
27 organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal Police
28 Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is in the
29 best interest and safety of the international community. Taiwan is a key transport hub for
30 international air travel and a large flight path in the Asia-Pacific remains under Taiwan’s
31 jurisdiction. In addition, Taiwan’s inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on
32 Climate Change (UNFCCC) is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now,
33 therefore be it

34 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

1 hereby seeks to further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Taiwan-Rhode Island trade and
2 investment relations, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on trade, and
3 encourages the Rhode Island State Government to further explore ways in which to strengthen
4 and promote bilateral trade between Taiwan and Rhode Island; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports Taiwan’s participation in international
6 organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO;
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
10 the United States, the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic
11 of China (Taiwan), and Douglas Y.T. Hsu, Director-General of the Tapei Economic Cultural
12 Office of Boston.

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