

2020 -- S 2882

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING "NATIONAL GOLF DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ON  
MAY 13, 2020

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Felag, Lombardo, Ciccone, and Picard

Date Introduced: June 17, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has played a significant role in the growth of golf  
2 as a sport in the United States. Newport Country Club was one of the five founding golf clubs of  
3 the United States Golf Association and hosted the very first US Open and the very first US  
4 Amateur Championship in 1895. In 1995, the centennial US Amateur Championship was held at  
5 the Newport Country Club, which also hosted the US Women's Open in 2006. In June of 2020,  
6 the club will host the US Senior Open which will bring significant tourism dollars to Rhode  
7 Island; and

8           WHEREAS, Rhode Island is blessed with golf courses that are internationally recognized  
9 for their excellence and significant contributions to the game of golf. In addition to the  
10 aforementioned Newport Country Club, Wannamoisett Country Club, designed by famed Golf  
11 architect Donald Ross, is renowned nationally and internationally and annually hosts the  
12 prestigious Northeast Amateur Invitational. In addition, the Rhode Island Country Club has  
13 hosted the CVS Charity Classic for the past twenty years thanks to the tireless support provided  
14 by Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade, professional golfers from Rhode Island, and CVS. Altogether,  
15 more than 21 million dollars has been raised for charitable purposes. Numerous other charities  
16 also raised significant amounts of money by running golf events on Rhode Island golf courses;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, Rhode Island has myriad organizations that have played and continue to  
19 play a significant role in organizing, regulating and growing the game of golf in the state, as well

1 as supporting numerous charities. The Rhode Island Golf Association was founded in 1902, and  
2 is the organizing body for the game of golf in Rhode Island. It is a member of the United States  
3 Golf Association (USGA), and oversees all aspects of the game in Rhode Island. The Rhode  
4 Island Golf Course Superintendent's Association (RIGCSA) was founded in 1930 to serve as the  
5 Rhode Island arm of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America. The John P.  
6 Burke Memorial Fund, better known as the Burke Fund, was founded in 1946 by members of the  
7 RIGA in honor of John Burke, an elite golfer from Newport who perished in World War II. In the  
8 organization's 72 years it has given out more than \$ 3.5 million to 1,200 students. Finally, Button  
9 Hole is a charity that for the past eighteen years has strived to make the game of golf more  
10 accessible to all Rhode Islanders. All of these organizations, along with other Rhode Island golf  
11 entities, comprise the Rhode Island Golf Council; and

12 WHEREAS, Altogether, golf in Rhode Island provides approximately \$213.5 million to  
13 the State's economy and is responsible for nearly 2,500 jobs; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
15 hereby celebrates "National Golf Day" on May 13, 2020; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Pat Hogan, Legislation/Public Relations Chair,  
18 Rhode Island Golf Council, Michael Varkonyi, President, RIGCSA, Robert Ward, Executive  
19 Director, Rhode Island Golf Association, Maury C. Davitt, Executive Director, Burke Fund, and  
20 Don Wright, Executive Director, Button Hole.

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