

2020 -- S 2927

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LC005595
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE EAST PROVIDENCE CITY
COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PURCHASING THE METACOMET GOLF CLUB AS OPEN
SPACE**

Introduced By: Senator Valarie J. Lawson

Date Introduced: September 30, 2020

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The Metacomet Golf Club was incorporated in 1901 and is set on 105 acres
2 of peaceful rolling hills and well-maintained lush green grass located on Veterans Memorial
3 Parkway overlooking Narraganset Bay in the City of East Providence; and

4 WHEREAS, In February of 2020, the Metacomet Golf Club announced it would sell its
5 property to Marshall Development with the current intent to turn the parcel from a private golf
6 course into a mixed-use, commercial/residential location with some public access to open space;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The East Providence City Council has final approval over the plan
9 recommendations for any zoning/comprehensive plan changes that will be made to the
10 Metacomet Golf Club parcel; and

11 WHEREAS, This decision will have an ever-lasting impact on the future of the City of
12 East Providence and its residents, who have strongly voiced their opposition to the destruction of
13 this historic open space; and

14 WHEREAS, A viable and significant ecological and environmental alternate vision for
15 the preservation of this parcel would be for the City of East Providence to purchase this property
16 through eminent domain and designate its usage as open space; and

17 WHEREAS, Utilizing a municipal bond to be supplemented through RIDEM grants and
18 federal aid, and with the support of various conservation organizations, the "Metacomet
19 Conservancy Land Trust" could be formed to oversee responsibility for the parcel and preserve its

1 accessibility for the public; and

2 WHEREAS, An essential portion of Rhode Island's mission for the use of greenspace
3 bond money is to fund and protect coastal features, farmland and wooded acreage all over the
4 state, and the preservation of the Metacomet Golf Club as open space is perfectly suited to this
5 cause; and

6 WHEREAS, Lack of community and public access to safe open and green space is a
7 critical area of concern for urban residents in all of New England. These green spaces play a
8 critical role in helping residents and visitors get outside and become active, and improves the
9 urban climate, abates the urban heat-island effect by their ecological-balancer function, and
10 reduces environmental damages; and

11 WHEREAS, It is in the very best long-term interest of the City of East Providence and
12 the State of Rhode Island to keep Metacomet green; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 respectfully requests the East Providence City Council to consider purchasing the Metacomet
15 Golf Club as open space; 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 Mayor DaSilva and members of the East
18 Providence City Council.

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