

2020 -- S 2944

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

THANKING SENATOR WILLIAM J. CONLEY FOR HIS EIGHT YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, and Pearson

Date Introduced: December 18, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, William J. Conley, Jr., was born in 1953. He graduated Magna Cum Laude
2 from Boston College and attained his Juris Doctor degree from Catholic University's Columbus
3 School of Law. Since 1982, he has maintained a flourishing legal practice as the Principal
4 Attorney in the law office of William J. Conley, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Conley has always been very active in civic affairs and has
6 continually volunteered his services to institutions that assist disadvantaged members of our
7 society. He is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program and
8 serves on the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Legal Services Corporation; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Conley began his distinguished career in public service when he
10 was elected in 2010 as an at-large member of the East Providence City Council. In 2012, he was
11 elected to Rhode Island Senate District 18 representing his constituency in the Cities of East
12 Providence and Pawtucket; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2017, Senator Conley was chosen to serve as Chairman of the Senate
14 Committee on Finance. His uncommon ability to tackle the details and research of complicated
15 issues and his facility to "harness the expertise" of his fellow colleagues by holding joint
16 committee meetings with other committees on budget matters, along with his vast acumen on
17 economic and fiscal issues, has helped Rhode Island to navigate the often choppy waters of an
18 economy that can be negatively affected in an instant by national and international circumstances;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, Senator Conley stood bravely for marriage equality because he
2 felt it was right and just, and can also list the repeal of the sales tax on kegs among his most
3 important accomplishments; and

4 WHEREAS, As a longtime baseball fan and a member of the Pawtucket delegation,
5 Senator Conley was deeply saddened by the defeat of the legislation that would have kept the
6 PawSox in Pawtucket, although the "transparent, accessible, and deliberative" hearings he held on
7 the PawSox issue have become a gold standard and were similarly utilized on hearings to extend
8 the state's lottery contract with IGT and Twin River; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Conley's calm and steady leadership has earned him the respect and
10 amity of all his colleagues and he will be sorely missed at the State House; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends heartfelt
12 thanks to Senator Conley for his eight years of exemplary and distinguished service to the citizens
13 of Rhode Island and wish him continued health, happiness and success in all his future endeavors;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable William J. Conley, Jr.

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